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LAST ISSUE

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-96-153

Wednesday

7 August 1996

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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-153

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Islamic Affairs

Islamic Affairs: 'Secret Pamphlets' Distributed at Islamic Conference

NC0208133996 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic
29 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Fathi Abu-al-Hamd: "Secret Pamphlets at Islamic Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security authorities seized secret pamphlets distributed in the rooms of delegations attending the "Conference on Islam and the Future of Civilized Dialogue" which ended the day before yesterday. The pamphlets urged opposition to the notion of the conference and denounced dialogue between religions.

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im Barri, chairman of the al-Azhar Ulema Front, which is opposed to the al-Azhar shaykh and the awqaf minister, has denied that the front was involved in these pamphlets and also denied any action by the front during the conference.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 23 Jul

NC0608162596

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 23 July edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Awqaf Minister Restores Rewards for Preachers
2. Writer Rajab Criticizes Awqaf Ministry, al-Azhar for Inaction
3. Mubarak To Address Islamic Affairs Conference Through Premier
4. Religious Meetings To Be Organized for Prophet's Birthday
5. Editorial Criticizes Muslims for Missing Essence of Festivities
6. Readers' Questions Answered by Religious Institutions' Shaykhs
7. Better Performance for Better Pay Asked of Preachers
8. Professors, Teachers Cited on al-Azhar University's Shortcomings
9. Mosques Urged To Fight Drug-Addiction, Strengthen Faith
10. Columnist Calls for Greater Islamic, Arab Unity Against Israel
11. Report Suggests Mosad Behind TWA Flight 800 Explosion
12. Columnist Makes Demands of Islamic Conference in Cairo

AWQAF MINISTER RESTORES REWARDS FOR PREACHERS

A 200-word report on pages 1 and 2 says that the awqaf minister has decided to respond to the call by writer Samir Rajab, chairman of 'AQIDATI's board of directors, to restore the monthly rewards that were previously given to preachers at big mosques "in appreciation of their role in serving the Islamic call." The minister had earlier decided to decrease the monthly rewards and Samir Rajab wrote an article criticizing the minister for this and claiming that the preachers perform a very important role. The report further notes that many preachers expressed their gratitude to Samir Rajab for working "in the interest of the Islamic call."

WRITER RAJAB CRITICIZES AWQAF MINISTRY, AL-AZHAR FOR INACTION

In his frontpage "Rightfully I Say" column, Samir Rajab criticizes the Awqaf Ministry and al-Azhar Mosque for being inactive and not organizing enough activities and celebrations for the Prophet's Birthday. The celebrations are always the same, Rajab notes. He writes: "The Awqaf Ministry holds celebrations on this occasion, which we cannot deny are distinguished; however, they are insufficient by any standards. As for al-Azhar, it does virtually nothing." He suggests that seminars, conferences, festivals, study circles, and other such activities should be organized for Muslims and non-Muslims to take part in and discover the depths of Islam. He hopes things will be different next year.

MUBARAK TO ADDRESS ISLAMIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE THROUGH PREMIER

Page 2 features a 300-word report on the meetings of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs in Cairo, which is to be held on 24 July under the patronage of President Mubarak and the chairmanship of the grand imam. Mubarak is to address the conference in a speech to be delivered by Prime Minister al-Jazuri, it adds. The report says that "Islam is the religion of peace, mercy, and renunciation of violence and terrorism of all kinds." The report discusses the topics to be addressed during the conference, such as the reasons and dimensions of intellectual extremism, and the stance of religion on terrorism and extremism.

RELIGIOUS MEETINGS TO BE ORGANIZED FOR PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY

A 200-word report on page 2 by Muhammad al-Abnudi notes that the central agency for preaching affairs at the Ministry of Awqaf has decided to organize a big religious meeting in the central mosque of every district in Cairo and the governorates on the occasion of the

Prophet Muhammad's Birthday. A number of preachers, who in some governorates have already been named, will deliver lectures during the meetings.

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES MUSLIMS FOR MISSING ESSENCE OF FESTIVITIES

'AQIDATI's 250-word editorial on page 3 comments on the celebrations of the Prophet's Birthday, which is says have been transformed into "a mere celebration of the newest kinds of candy, to such an extent that it has become linked in the minds of children with sandwiches and a cake shaped like a horse, thus distancing us from the essence of the event." He criticizes society for paying greater attention to appearances than to essence. He warns that if the Muslims nowadays do not emulate the example of the Prophet, they will not have any status among the world's nations.

READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS' SHAYKHS

In a 3,000-word feature on pages 4 and 5 questions sent by readers to the al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee and the Mufti's Office and the answers given by shaykhs and ulema from these institutions are published. One issue discussed at length is the validity of prayers when the worshipper is not praying in the correct direction of the qiblah in Mecca. Another issue discussed is what a person should do when his wife is having an affair with his brother. Relationships between a man and a woman is also raised; they should be based only on marriage, the authorities say.

BETTER PERFORMANCE FOR BETTER PAY ASKED OF PREACHERS

In his 500-word "In All Frankness" column on page 6 entitled "The Ministry of Awqaf and the Required Reform" Basyuni al-Halawani noting that President Mubarak has paid great attention to the activities of preachers and the call work. After he granted disgruntled preachers the pay raise that they argued for, one would have expected them to work harder since their problems have been solved and their financial and social standards have become acceptable. "Unfortunately, the state of the call has remained the same; in fact, accusations leveled against the preachers have increased, particularly now that terrorism has increased, as has the bandying of the name of Islam on various issues," al-Halawani says. He says officials in the Awqaf Ministry should address this shortcoming. After praising the awqaf minister, he warns that "rectification of this fault will not be done by stripping the preachers of the privileges they have been given, which in the meantime have become their acquired rights." The Ministry should plan well to exploit the potentials of these preachers and should

apply the principle of rewards and punishments. Al-Halawani concludes by saying that he supports the minister's call for the reform of the Awqaf Ministry, "but this reform should take place gradually and in a well-planned manner, not indiscriminately and through improvisation, so that its objectives will be reached."

PROFESSORS, TEACHERS CITED ON AL-AZHAR UNIVERSITY'S SHORTCOMINGS

Two investigative reports of 2,000 and 15,00 words respectively are published on pages 8 or 9. The first report, by Musa Hal, investigates the educational situation at al-Azhar University, pointing out the problems, shortcomings, and drawbacks of the system. The report cites various professors and teachers from al-Azhar University on its importance as an institution that safeguards Islam and the Arabic language. Some note the problems of al-Azhar, such as buildings that need renovation, syllabuses that need reforming, and teachers who need more training. Others note the positive aspects of the institution, such as the quality of its graduates, which is above average for graduates of Egyptian universities.

The second report, by Mahmud 'Ushb and Rabab Ibrahim, discusses unacceptable behavior during the Prophet's Birthday celebrations, such as blowing trumpets and banging drums, having fun, and eating candy. Some shaykhs are cited in support of this, while others express the opinion that celebrations should consist of studying Islam's problems and proposing solutions for them.

MOSQUES URGED TO FIGHT DRUG-ADDICTION, STRENGTHEN FAITH

A 2,000-word report by Amal Hasan on page 14 urges using mosques as a center for combating and preventing drug addiction. After reviewing the history of drug addiction in Egypt, she cites Shaykh Mansur 'Ubayd, first secretary in the Awqaf Ministry, who demands that mosques become religion's lighthouses of social, health, and cultural action to protect society. A female gynecologist also notes the dangers of drug addiction among women, which might cause birth defects and eventually lead women to drug-trafficking and prostitution. She adds: "Deepening faith among young women, teaching them self-respect, giving them a democratic upbringing while at the same time educating them about the dangers of drugs or medicine abuse without a valid prescription is a good start."

COLUMNIST CALLS FOR GREATER ISLAMIC, ARAB UNITY AGAINST ISRAEL

'Adil Dayf contributes a 400-word column on page 20 entitled: "The Required Confrontation." He begins

by referring to Israel's hostile policy toward anything Muslim or Arab. He notes Netanyahu's statements in Washington, when he said that Islam is the West's primary enemy since the fall of communism. He is trying to stir up hostility to Muslims and Islam so that Israel can benefit, Dayf says. He warns: "The Arabs and Muslims must work together in accordance with a united strategy to oppose this fierce tone. We also need Arab and Islamic coordination in all international forums to prove that Islam is innocent of the charges of terrorism. We should also stress that Israel is the basis of terrorism and that all the policies it implements are terroristic. We need to clarify to the world that Israel's occupation of Arab lands, inhuman acts against the Arabs, and the crimes it commits everywhere are nothing but terrorism."

REPORT SUGGESTS MOSAD BEHIND TWA FLIGHT 800 EXPLOSION

A 100-word unattributed report on page 21 wonders if the Israeli Mosad engineered the downing TWA flight 800. After reviewing statements and events following the midair explosion on board the U.S. airliner over Long Island Sound, the report says: "Political analysts do not rule out the possibility that Israel was behind the U.S. airliner explosion, and that its objective was to push Washington into a clash with the Arab countries." After all, there are many indications that the Mosad was behind various other terrorist activities in the world, the report concludes.

COLUMNIST MAKES DEMANDS OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN CAIRO

Al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Ra'uf's 400-word article in his "A Call To Reason" column on the back page discusses the various kinds of conferences that are held in the region. He then concentrates on the Islamic conference "Islam and the Future of Civilized Dialogue," which is sponsored by the Higher Council of Islamic Affairs under the patronage of President Mubarak. He says that this conference must "mobilize the drive of the Islamic nation so that it wakes up from its deep slumber and becomes strong enough to contribute to the shaping of human civilization." This would establish "a contact bridge of civilization between the Muslims and non-Muslims in the East and West," and "serve the causes of peace and development, as well as continuity among nations." He concludes that the conference should issue fewer recommendations and decisions while concentrating more on implementation and follow-up.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 Jul NC0608175096

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 July 1996 edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Muslims Defend al-Aqsa Mosque From Jews
2. U.S. Acts To Pressure Egypt on Eve of Mubarak's Visit
3. Prisoners of Conscience Committee Pledges Support
4. Outcome of MB Members' Trial Due 15 August
5. Issues Facing New Turkish Government Viewed
6. Decision To Establish Private Universities Criticized
7. MB Leader Marks Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
8. Labor Party Leader Addresses Rally
9. Rally Demands Halt To Normalization With Israel
10. Islamic Conference Recommendations Reported
11. Columnist Says Butrus-Ghali Saved by U.S. Hostility

MUSLIMS DEFEND AL-AQSA MOSQUE FROM JEWS

A 400-word factual report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on page 1 details attempts by two extremist groups to enter the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem to pray in it and the Muslims' success in defending the mosque. The report notes that this attempt came at a time "when plots are afoot to settle around the mosque, buy the Arab citizens' houses fraudulently through the ('Atirat Cohenim) group, and expropriate their lands in preparation for encircling the al-Aqsa Mosque with a Jewish population and destroying it and the Dome of the Rock." The report also notes that Jewish settlers and extremists have obtained huge backing from "the Netanyahu government, which has voiced its support for settlement and began huge campaigns to undertake it."

Commenting on the same issue the writer, in a 350-word column on page 7, details several attempts to take over the mosque and the work being carried out to undermine its foundations, citing the mufti of Jerusalem. He warns that "desecration of the al-Aqsa Mosque should not be allowed to pass without reaction, because it will encourage the Zionists to repeat it and enter into the "Mosque's courtyard" and then call for sharing it with Muslims as they did in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque."

U.S. ACTS TO PRESSURE EGYPT ON EVE OF MUBARAK'S VISIT

An 800-word report by Rabi' Shahin, which appears on pages 1 and 8, claims that the United States has moved to embarrass Egypt and exert pressure on it. The first action was a Washington complaint to the Security Council, claiming that Egypt violated the sanctions imposed on Libya and Iraq and notes that this accusation came on the eve of President Mubarak's visit to the United States. The report also claims that the "United States refused to reopen the Lockerbie file and discuss new Libyan proposals to end the problem peacefully, which President Mubarak has supported." It also claims that the new Israeli Government promised Cairo "to stop its pressure on the U.S. Administration to reduce its aid to Egypt in return for the latter's change of policy, which Israel regards as hostile." It says that Egypt's was compelled to take concrete action to deny the Zionist lobby the chance to incite American public opinion against Egypt during Mubarak's visit, and therefore signed an agreement to build a joint Egyptian-Israeli oil refinery and undertake a huge joint agricultural project. As to Mubarak's talks in Washington, the paper expects that the summit "will not discuss some important issues, including the Korean Scud missile deal" but that Egypt will relay to Washington its concern with the increased flow of weapons into the region, particularly to Israel, and will warn the U.S. Administration of the serious consequences of the Likud policies for U.S. interests in the region.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE COMMITTEE PLEDGES SUPPORT

An unattributed 100-word report on page 1 says that the National Committee for the Defense of Prisoners of Conscience congratulated detainees, political prisoners, their families, and its supporters on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday and pledged "its solidarity with all these prisoners, regardless of their intellectual leanings or political creeds."

OUTCOME OF MB MEMBERS' TRIAL DUE 15 AUGUST

A 60-word report on page 1 by Qutb al-'Arabi and Dawud Hasan says that the Higher Military Court trying the 13 Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members and founders of the Center Party will issue its ruling on 15 August.

ISSUES FACING NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT VIEWED

A 4,000-word report by Ahmad al-Siyufi on page 4 views and analyzes the main four issues facing the

Turkish Government of Erbakan. The first is that of relations with Syria. After detailing the background and main points of differences between the two countries, mainly that of sharing the Euphrates River water and the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] activities, the writer says relations improved when Erbakan became prime minister and received congratulations from his Syrian counterpart. He adds that "meetings have in fact been held between Syrian officials and officials from the Welfare Party, during which they agreed to solve the water issue and promote economic and political relations, while Syria will play an important role in stopping PKK activities." The second issue is that of relations with Iraq. The writer also views the background to the two countries relations since 1991, when Turkey was ruled by secular parties. He says that Erbakan's Welfare Party believes that "Iraq is a fraternal Islamic country and the siege on it must be lifted." He notes that a Turkish trade delegation and an economic one have in fact met with Iraqi officials and "agreement was reached to meet Iraq's food and medicine needs and remove all sources of tension." But, he adds, this deeply annoyed the United States, which sent a delegation that included Madeleine Albright "to warn Erbakan of the serious consequences of this agreement." The third issue is that of the Kurdish minority. The writer views the military confrontations and escalations in this struggle and adds that Erbakan "has succeeded in convincing the army to have the problem solved politically" and has additionally allowed the Kurds to return back their lands, speak and learn their own language, and have their own television station and cultural establishments. Relations with the west are the fourth issue, and the writer emphasizes repeatedly Erbakan's assertions to U.S. officials he met that "we are not hostile to the west, but want to develop relations with it within the framework of our independence." The report notes Erbakan's stand on renewing the mandate of the coalition forces in Turkey, which operate against Iraq, is that it is a sensitive issue that touches on Turkey's national security and therefore requires a democratic consultation with the army and all the political establishments.

DECISION TO ESTABLISH PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES CRITICIZED

In his 3,000-word article on page 5, Dr. Hilmi Murad takes issue with the "hasty" cabinet decision to allow the establishment of four privately run universities without a proper study. He queries whether enrollment would be in accordance with qualifications or the ability to pay the tuition fees, and whether the rush to allow their establishment would fulfill the desired hopes. He notes that the cabinet's hastiness was reflected in the

names given for the four universities, such as what is the meaning of calling one of them Egypt's International University, and whether Egypt's University for Science and Technology would be the only one to teach all the branches of science. He also notes the law's ambiguity about the sort of people allowed to set up these universities, other than that the major part of the capital should be Egyptian, and draws attention to the fact that the Education Ministry will have no control or role other than to approve the appointment of the presidents and foreign staff members. He concludes by saying that the important thing is to "have the necessary guarantees for the scientific values of degrees given by these universities" and whether they will be up to the standards of foreign universities and not local ones, adding that this criteria is lacking because of the cabinet's rush to come out with the decision.

MB LEADER MARKS PROPHET MUHAMMAD'S BIRTHDAY

Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Mustafa Mashhur marks Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary, in his 1,500 weekly column on page 5, by calling on Muslims to unite and march under the prophet's banner and establish their state like he did. He says that the "establishment of the Islamic state is a religious duty imposed by Islam on every Muslim man and woman and dictated by the nature of the stage through which the Islamic nation is going." He recalls the MB founder's call to unity and the establishment of the MB. He adds that the MB's success has upset the enemies and hence accusations against and pressures on Islamists began, but, he urges that "we should be patient and continue." He then criticizes the imported western materialism and calls for fighting it and for upholding Islamic values and principles and notes that the signs that this will be achieved are manifested by the young people embracing Islam, the spread of wearing the veil, and the voice of Islam being heard in the west itself. Mashhur views the life of the prophet and urges Muslims to follow his example and then touches on the hostility he faced from Jews and notes that this hostility remains to this day, as witnessed by the establishment of Israel, its ambitions in Arab lands, and attempts to take over al-Aqsa Mosque. He concludes by greeting those behind bars and urges them to be patient like the prophet and his companions.

LABOR PARTY LEADER ADDRESSES RALLY

A 2,000-word report by Tariq 'Abd-al-Hamid on page 6 details speeches made at a rally, held by the Labor Party in al-Mahallah on 25 July, in solidarity with the Arab summit. Addressing the rally, Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri criticizes the emergency laws that still governs Egypt, noting that "no country in the world has been ruled for 15 whole years by emergency laws, as is happening in Egypt. Citizens have lost all the guarantees they could get and no one is safe under this

law." He then reiterated the Labor Party's accusation that last year's People's Assembly elections were rigged and reiterates the call for the political parties to take a united stand on the issue of privatization and the sale of public sector companies. Moving on to the Jerusalem issue, he cites the new Israeli Government's stand and asserts that "East Jerusalem will remain the Palestinians' capital, whether some people agree or not." Other speakers praise Shukri's political stands on several issues, including the Arab summit, and call for halting normalization with Israel and for resisting the privatization programs that are harmful to Egypt's workers.

RALLY DEMANDS HALT TO NORMALIZATION WITH ISRAEL

An unattributed 250-word item on page 8 reports on a Labor Party rally in al-Daqahliyah on 25 July, where various speakers addressed the Arab-Israeli conflict issue. Labor Party official 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat views the Jews history of "scheming," calls for getting ready for the next war with Israel, and underlines the importance of "threatening U.S. interests and boycotting its goods." Muslim Brotherhood member Salih al-Banna asserts that the "creed of Islam is the only one capable of confronting Zionism" and criticizes what he terms the "blatant U.S. bias toward the Zionists". Other speakers praise the Arab summit, but urge more united stands.

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTED

A 400-word report by Subhi Buhayri on page 8 highlights the recommendations of the Islam and Civilized Dialogue Conference, which was held in Cairo, and notes in particular that the recommendations did not include the Bosnian mufti's request to include one that supports the Bosnian people's right to jihad. It also highlights the debates that went on before the recommendations were issued.

COLUMNIST SAYS BUTRUS-GHALI SAVED BY U.S. HOSTILITY

In his 400-word column on page 12, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus comments on the U.S. opposition to the reelection of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. He writes that Butrus-Ghali was a disappointment because of his failures in Bosnia and Chechnya and holds him responsible for the massacre of Muslims, thus bringing on himself the anger of the Egyptian people. He then says that Butrus-Ghali's salvation came at the hands of the United States, which threatened to veto his reelection. He views the various reasons given for this hostility and says that this hostility "has saved him from the anger of the Egyptian people."

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: King Husayn Briefs 'Arafat on Talks With Netanyahu

JN0608141796 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1300 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan's King Husayn briefed President Yasir 'Arafat on the outcome of the talks he held with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday. During a telephone conversation between the two today, the president and the Jordanian monarch discussed the latest regional political developments and ways to advance the peace process, especially on the Palestinian-Israeli track, in light of Israel's procrastination and the new government's practices.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Remarks Prior To Departure for al-'Aqabah Reported

JN0708101196 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0900 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left for al-'Aqabah a short time ago for talks with Jordan's King Husayn. Presidential adviser Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said the Palestinian-Jordanian summit will discuss the latest political developments in the wake of King Husayn's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Amman.

In a statement to Voice of Palestine this morning, Abu-Rudaynah said the summit is part of the consultations agreed upon at the Cairo and Amman summit meetings.

Our correspondent in Gaza 'Adil al-Za'nun has more details.

[Begin al-Za'nun recording] President Yasir 'Arafat said he will discuss with Jordan's King Husayn all issues of common Arab interest. Responding to correspondents' questions prior to his departure for al-'Aqabah, President 'Arafat said he will discuss with the Jordanian monarch ways to advance the peace process within the framework of Arab coordination and cooperation in order to surmount the obstacles impeding movement. He termed the summit meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as very important. He said the Mubarak-al-Asad summit is a continuation of the Arab summit with the aim of moving forward and bolstering Arab unity and solidarity.

President 'Arafat stressed that the Israeli Government's decision on settlement expansion is a flagrant violation of what was agreed upon and signed. The president referred to the letters addressed to the international community in this regard, especially the cosponsors of the peace process, the Security Council, the EU, and the states concerned with the peace process.

President 'Arafat arrived at the Presidential Office in Gaza from Ramallah by helicopter, which landed at Ansar airfield this morning. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: More on 'Arafat Message to Netanyahu on Settlement Activity

TA0608150796 *Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic*
6 Aug 96

[Report by 'Adil Abu-Na'mah — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jericho — President Yasir 'Arafat has called on Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to back down from the Israeli Government decision that abolished the restrictions imposed by the previous Israeli Government on settlement activities. President 'Arafat also called on Netanyahu to give the peace process the chance it deserves by resuming the final stage talks at once and by putting into effect the reciprocal implementation of the interim agreement.

This came in a message sent by President 'Arafat to Netanyahu two days ago and which was delivered by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, to Eytan Bentzur, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

In his message, President 'Arafat noted the Israeli Government's commitment to refrain from building new settlements, expanding existing ones, or funding settlement activities. The message referred to the Israeli Government's commitments not to adopt unilateral measures that might prejudice the status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a single geographic unit or take any other measures that might prejudice or infringe upon the issues to be discussed in the final stage talks, which include Jerusalem, borders, settlements, and refugees.

The message also mentioned the U.S. letter of assurances handed to the Palestinian side before the Madrid Conference in 1991. The letter affirmed that the status of Jerusalem and its municipal boundaries will not be prejudiced and that none of its characteristics will be changed.

The message added that the previous Israeli Government had promised the Palestinian National Authority that its policy would be based on four principles:

1. Refrain from building new settlements.
2. Refrain from expanding existing settlements.
3. The Israeli Government would not fund any settlement activity.
4. A barbed-wire fence would be set up 50 meters from the last house in each settlement. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Sources Detail 'Modifications' Made to Redeployment Accord

TA0608145196 Ramallah AL-AYYAM in Arabic
6 Aug 96

[Report by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jerusalem — Informed Israeli sources have said that slight modifications have been introduced into the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the Israeli army's redeployment in Hebron.

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told the Israeli correspondents who accompanied him to Amman yesterday that the Palestinian-Israeli talks on this issue will begin within days.

AL-AYYAM has learned that the modifications that have been introduced into the previous agreement reached by Uri Savir, former director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, are:

- Expanding the areas called H2 by several meters. These are the areas that will be under Israeli sovereignty;
- Widening the road linking Hebron with Qiryat Arba';
- Expropriating several Arab homes for the purpose of security surveillance.

Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay has said that the date for the Hebron redeployment has not been set yet, but the Israeli sources stressed that the agreement with its final details will be ready at the end of August, at which time it will be presented to the Israeli inner cabinet. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Committee Condemns Israeli Decision on Settlement

TA0608170496 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic
5 Aug 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah, AL-BILAD — The National and Islamic Committee for Confronting Settlement Activity has condemned the Israeli Government decision that abolishes the restrictions on settlement activity in the Palestinian territories and calls for boosting the settlements' natural growth.

In a statement yesterday, the committee stressed that this decision very clearly reflects the inclination in official Israeli policy to oppose the conclusion of a balanced peace agreement or a historic reconciliation that will guarantee the region's people their legitimate rights and full sovereignty over their land.

The committee said that this decision forewarns of a future war in the region, which had begun to witness the beginning of stability and an era of peace. Therefore, the committee called on the international community and its judicial organizations to closely examine the gravity of the Israeli measures and decisively resist all hostile moves.

Moreover, the committee called on all the Palestinian masses to adhere to national unity and rally around the popular committees and leading institutions and bodies that defend the land and the legitimate rights in order to confront the continuing settlement policy.

Palestinian Affairs: Quray'—Israeli Decision on Settlements 'Illegal'

NC0708104096 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0950 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—Ahmad Quray', speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, has described the recent Israeli Government's decision to lift the ban on settlement expansion as violent aggression and an illegal and illegitimate decision. He confirmed that the settlements are a cancer that cannot be allowed to grow because they will kill the peace process.

Ahmad Quray' says in a statement to the weekly magazine AL-MUSAWWAR published in its issue for the day after tomorrow, Friday, 9 August, that this Israeli decision is an ominous harbinger of evil, a real danger, and unacceptable aggression because it does not leave any room for negotiations.

He points out that the Legislative Council has referred a demand to the Executive Authority to suspend negotiations until Israel adheres to the texts of the agreements in accordance with the specified time schedule and shows a commitment to stop the settlement activities. He explained that without this commitment on Israel's part, the negotiations will be useless and futile.

With regard to the Palestinian clashes that took place a few days ago outside Tulkarm prison, the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council said there are violations and mistakes committed by the Palestinian security organs as a result of their inexperience and lack of exposure, or perhaps because of the amount of pressure and responsibility placed on their shoulders.

He explained that the most important task before the Legislative Council is preparing the laws and regulations, monitoring the performance of the Executive Authority, following up on the negotiations to realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and keeping

track of the Israeli policy of settlement expansion and the violations that Jerusalem is being subjected to.

Palestinian Affairs: Intelligence Chief Accuses Leaders Abroad of Instigation

JN0708103396 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0512 GMT 7 Aug 96

[Telephone interview with Amin al-Hindi, director general of the Palestinian General Intelligence Department, by Za'al Abu-Rukbah; place not given; from "A New Day" program—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Rukbah] It seems that the situation is not easy. Caution and vigilance must be greatly stressed at such a stage. Is it true that certain forces are trying to create tension and explode the situation against the Palestinian Authority [PA]? What evidence is there?

[Al-Hindi] There is no doubt that caution is essential. We depend on our people and their awareness in this regard. Our people can distinguish between the public interest and the selfish interest of some suspect quarters. Two days ago we held a news conference for Palestinian and foreign correspondents. We presented them with conclusive evidence in the form of letters instigating our people to embark on an intifadah against their national authority—an authority for which they sacrificed tens or even hundreds of martyrs and thousands of wounded and prisoners. Regrettably, there are suspect forces that are trying to destabilize the PA areas. This is not in the interest of our people, but the other party, in order to justify the other party's failure to abide by its commitments toward the agreement signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government.

[Abu-Rukbah] Do you think these forces are in the PA areas and receive instructions from abroad?

[Al-Hindi] In fact, instructions regrettably come from the leaders of the so-called nationalist movements abroad. These movements have extensions here but not on a large scale.

[Abu-Rukbah] How can such a situation be addressed in the wake of the insistence of some on exploiting some violations by the authority for subversive purposes?

[Al-Hindi] We are trying to prevent these forces from infiltrating the national authority or the ranks of our enlightened people. We completely depend on our people's awareness, struggle and sense of security. We will work relentlessly to expose these forces and prevent them from undermining our Palestinian people's accomplishments.

[Abu-Rukbah] We strongly condemn violations by some agencies and individuals and think those responsible should be taken to account in order to check such violations, especially those of some security agencies. How do you think such violations should be dealt with?

[Al-Hindi] There is no doubt that we all in the PA, regardless of our positions, condemn any violation by individuals within the PA departments. I do not agree that there are violations by the Palestinian agencies. There are violations by some individuals in the Palestinian agencies. This issue was tackled and those responsible were immediately tried. We hope that a rehabilitation and reassessment of the people serving in the authority will help end such violations.

[Abu-Rukbah] Is there coordination among the various security agencies?

[Al-Hindi] Of course, coordination continues among all security agencies through the National Security Council, which is headed by President 'Arafat. By the way, the president is always the first to condemn these violations. He daily tells us that we should keep our eyes open and not to allow anyone to break the law. Being a member of the security apparatus does not mean that you are entitled to break the law or undertake an action that might harm our people.

[Abu-Rukbah] What would you like to tell our people in order foil the plans of all forces trying to fish in troubled waters and exploit the minor mistakes that occur anywhere in the world and not only in our country?

[Al-Hindi] Our people are enlightened and open-minded. They are a struggling people who know that we are devoting all our efforts in the service of public interest. They know that some individuals may be wrong in their personal opinion, but this is not a general PA policy to harm our people. We basically depend on our people's awareness. Closing ranks and national unity are the basis of everything in order to deny the enemies of any chance to harm our national accomplishments.

[Abu-Rukbah] Certainly. Amin al-Hindi, director general of the General Intelligence Department, greetings to you and we wish you success. Good morning.

[Al-Hindi] Thank you.

**Palestinian Affairs: 'Abd-al-Rahim, Hamas'
Hamami on Tulkarm, Nabulus Incidents**

JN0608074696 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0500 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, revealed that the Palestinian security agencies have apprehended three persons who fomented sedition and upheld parochial slogans opposed to the National Authority in Tulkarm and Nabulus. Their collaboration with Israel has been proven, 'Abd-al-Rahim added.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine last night, 'Abd-al-Rahim went on to say: Scarce resources, limited experience, and tough circumstances can lead to excesses by security agencies. He pointed out that the National Authority will remain careful to safeguard the Palestinian citizens' freedom.

'Abd-al-Rahim noted statements made by Israeli officials to the effect that the Israeli army will enter the liberated Palestinian territories if security there collapses. He also noted that Israeli military exercises on the storming of cities were conducted near Jerusalem approximately one month ago.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed that the National Authority will not allow any interference in its areas, nor will it allow Israel to violate Palestinian security in the liberated Palestinian cities and villages.

For his part, Shaykh Jamil Hamami, a leader of the Islamic movement in the West Bank, supported the existence of powerful security agencies. Meanwhile, he added that the relationship between these agencies and citizens must be defined and clarified. He also called for improving and promoting the relationship between the National Authority and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. He urged a resumption of the dialogue between them started in Cairo. He noted that there are common denominators between Hamas and the National Authority.

In a statement to the Voice of Palestine last night, Shaykh Jamil Hamami said that we must wait to see the outcome of the work of the investigation committee assigned the task of investigating the incidents that took place in Tulkarm and Nabulus last week.

**Palestinian Affairs: Security Services Detain
Activists in Tulkarm, Nabulus**

TA0608181096 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Arabic* 1600 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed Palestinian sources told our correspondent Kayid Zahir that last night the Palestinian security organs detained a number of citizens who participated in the funeral of Mahmud al-Jumayyil several days ago and damaged the Nabulus Municipality.

The security organs also carried out similar detentions in Nabulus and Tulkarm among followers of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine suspected of participating in the Tulkarm incidents and storming the governor's office.

**Palestinian Affairs: Palestinians Urged To
Relaunch Intifadah**

MM0608154196 *London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic* 6 Aug 96 p 15

[Editorial: "No Alternative to a Resumption of the Intifadah"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult for us to understand what kind of peace Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and some Arab officials trying to promote his moderation at Arab level are talking about, especially after the decision taken by his government last Friday [2 August] to lift all the restrictions imposed by the previous Labor government in 1992 on settlement activities. This decision is worse than a "declaration of war" in view of its danger not only to the already dying peace process, but to the Arab region's security and stability.

Building the first settlement or expanding another would mean that all those opposed to the peace process have always been in the right as regards their opposition, which centers primarily on their distrust of the Israelis as peacemakers. That would also affect the moderation phenomenon that has recently started to dominate the region and encourage coexistence between Arabs and Jews inside and outside occupied Palestine.

The Palestinians accepted the Oslo agreements despite the humiliation and gross historic injustice involved, for the sake of halting the monster of settlement which has gobbled up most of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. For the Likud government to unleash it once again means their return to square one, and maybe a more violent phase of the intifadah.

It is difficult for us to understand the Palestinian National Authority's adherence to the commitments imposed on it by the Oslo agreements as regards pursuing and arresting Islamic opposition elements, especially as the official Israeli party is evading its commitments and resuming settlement repression methods.

Opposition is now legitimate for the supporters of both the Authority and the Islamic movements. And national unity is now a necessity in order to confront the new Israeli expansionist policies. Thus the arrest campaigns against those opposed to the peace process should be halted immediately and all detainees released without delay.

It has become clear that the intifadah, with all that it means in terms of confrontations and clashes with the occupation forces, is the only successful method which should be used with the Israelis, who keep no promises, respect no agreements, and believe in terrorizing others and attacking their rights, land, and property.

What do the Palestinians and the Arab expect from a government which has come to power through a settlement program; includes Ari'el Sharon, Refa'el Eytan, and Yitzhaq Mordekhay; and whose majority is made up of the settlers' parties and religious extremists?!

The Arabs have given Netanyahu a chance, have been patient with him, and sent him envoys to try to persuade him to display flexibility and abandon his hard-line policy, and here he is dealing them the humiliating settlement blow as a prelude to other blows in Lebanon and Syria in particular. Especially as he has paved the way for that by presenting the "Lebanon First" proposal in order to foment sedition between Damascus and Beirut and justify his future interference in Lebanese affairs through his numerous agents, who are looking for an opportunity to sabotage all recent economic and reconstruction achievements.

Netanyahu wants to impose new realities on the ground, settle 250,000 more Jews in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, change the demographic and geographic features of occupied Jerusalem, and secure the pretexts and excuses for the Palestinians' expulsion directly or indirectly by starving them and closing all the doors of livelihood and stability to them. So what are the Arabs going to do?

Until the Arabs who met in Cairo recently decide what they are going to do in the face of this humiliating Israeli challenge to them and to their holy sites, it is incumbent on the Palestinians to take the initiative and launch their intifadah, now that it has become clear that peace is merely a bad nightmare and a big lie which must be brought to an end as soon as possible.

Palestinian Affairs: U.S. Warned Against 'Blunder' of Attacking Iran

MM0708095696 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Aug 96 p 15

[Editorial: "U.S. Strike Against Iran Expected"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has issued further warnings against any new terrorist attack on the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and hinted that there is Iranian involvement in the two attacks against those forces which left 25 people dead in Riyadh and al-Khubar.

It seems that the U.S. Administration is now getting ready to launch a military strike against Iran after realizing that economic sanctions have failed to produce any practical results. Reports leaked to USA TODAY say that there are 11 terrorist training centers in Iran. President Bill Clinton hinted that Iran may be involved in the TWA Boeing explosion on 17 July over New York, en route to Paris.

On Monday President Clinton is due to sign a bill allowing the U.S. Government to impose sanctions against foreign companies investing in oil and gas in Iran and Libya which, he believes, support terrorism. This bill is strongly opposed by Washington's European allies.

The U.S. Administration is keeping quiet about who might launch a terrorist attack against its forces on the Arabian Peninsula. Also, it neither explains why its troops are being readied, nor provides any information on the type of operation. However, investigations carried out in the wake of the al-Khubar blast, which left 19 Americans dead and hundreds injured, may have uncovered some information about plans for further bombings.

Washington will probably look for a scapegoat in order to cover its failure to confront terrorist actions against Americans in the United States and abroad, the most recent being the Atlanta bombing, which revealed how fragile the security measures at the Olympic Games were.

Iran is seen by the current Democrat administration as an easy target which can be accused and blamed for all bombings and terrorist acts, just as Libya was by the previous U.S. Administration. When, in 1987, a bomb exploded in West Berlin's "La Belle" night club frequented by U.S. soldiers, U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent his bombers to bomb Tripoli without waiting for the outcome of the investigations which later proved that Libya played no part in the bombing. Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher admitted that

Reagan chose to blame Libya for the bombing because it was an easy target and because a strike against it was easy to sell to U.S. public opinion.

The same could happen to Iran. The Democrats have a deep-rooted hatred of Iran and an old score to settle, and they have publicly accused it of bringing down their previous administration during the Carter years by refusing to release the hostages before the presidential election which brought the Republicans to the White House. It is possible that the current administration is determined to condemn Iran. Hence the announcement that its troops are ready is only a preamble to counteract any Iranian retaliatory reaction should the U.S. planes and warships start shelling Tehran.

We hope that the U.S. Administration will not commit a new blunder in the region against Iran or anyone else, because the result of any military strike will be bad and will take the region back into the cycle of war and instability.

Any aggression against Iran will only be against a faction rather than a country, and it will justify and rationalize any retaliatory acts of violence against U.S. soldiers and civilians in the Middle East, and perhaps all over the world. If this is what Washington wants during the presidential election, it is welcome to it, but it must bear the consequences.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Arabs Have 'Serious Doubts' About Netanyahu's Intentions

MM0608133396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 6 Aug 96 p 9

[Editorial: "Patience Has Its Limits"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second time while visiting an Arab state, Netanyahu has adopted a moderate tone without offering any clear commitments. This raises doubts, suggesting that he is pursuing a two-faced policy.

During his visit to Jordan, the second to an Arab state, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu adopted a moderate tone when addressing the Arab world, reaffirming his readiness to start peace talks with Syria immediately and stressing that his government is trying to achieve a genuine peace with the Arab world as a whole. One day earlier, he had urged taking a practical approach rather than wasting the next four years of his term in controversy between Israel and the Arab states over contentious interpretations of UN resolutions.

In fact it is the Arab world which has serious doubts, fearing that Netanyahu will be the one to resort to controversy and dialogue for dialogue's sake during his

term, so as to ensure that the peace process achieves no results on its various tracks and that the whole enterprise proves a waste of time, enabling Tel Aviv to impose a new fait accompli on the ground and continue with the settlements policy at the expense of the Palestinian territories.

These doubts are not unfounded. There are worrying signs of a dichotomy between the image that the new Israeli Government is projecting about itself in the Arab world and its practices on the ground. This was first noticed during Netanyahu's visit to Egypt, the first Arab state that he visited after his election, and then during his visit yesterday to Jordan. During the first visit, observers were most surprised at the change in his rhetoric, between his proposals a few days earlier during his talks in the United States and his positions in Egypt. The same thing occurred during his current visit to Jordan. Earlier he had approved one of the most dangerous resolutions to threaten the peace process as a whole, namely the easing of the settlement procedures for Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza; then later he talked in Amman about Israel's desire for a genuine peace and a resumption of negotiations with Syria.

If this is what is happening, the Israeli Government really is living in a fantasy world, because such a ploy would not deceive the Arab states, apart from the fact that Arab patience has its limits.

On one hand, those who are involved in the region cannot go back to square one again, after everything that has been invested and after all the attempts made in conjunction with the international powers to reach the current peace agreements, which have yet to be completed and which are only a series of future steps agreed with the previous Israeli Government with a view to achieving a comprehensive peace in the region. On the other hand, despite the pessimism about the peace process caused by the current Likud Government's extremist policies and its election slogans, the Arab sides have adopted a realistic approach, preferring to give Netanyahu more time, on the premise that the responsibilities of government are different from election campaigns. This period of grace cannot last for ever. This means that the Israeli Government must prove that it is interested in continuing the peace process. Netanyahu said yesterday that he had made a specific offer to Syria via Washington and that he was waiting for a response. It would be difficult, however, to imagine Damascus negotiating for anything less than regaining the Golan.

**Arab-Israeli Talks: Delay Over 'Lebanon First'
Shows Syrian 'Flexibility'**

MM0708112296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
7 Aug 96 p 15

[Article by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Syrian Flexibility...and Lebanese Flexibility?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although Syria has said a semi-official no to the "Lebanon first" proposal presented originally by Binyamin Netanyahu, it was preempted by some Lebanese who believe that their rejection of the proposal confirms their loyalty to Damascus. They should have waited a little because the proposal is still just a group of ideas espoused by the U.S. Administration, or, rather, it has espoused some of them and presented them to the Arabs recently.

Actually Syria is dealing with regional developments very flexibly these days. It wants — and is entitled — to know what "Lebanon first" means. It is entitled to ensure that the proposal is not a "trap," at least from the Syrian viewpoint. Because southern Lebanon is a card which Damascus believes it can use to put pressure on Israel. The most serious thing that could happen for Syria is for Israel to strip it of this card without offering anything in return. In other words, to silence the southern Lebanon front without opening the Golan file.

That is why Damascus preferred to adopt a passive position, namely to wait and try to find out what it can get in return for its agreement to turn the southern Lebanon page and consequently the Hizballah page. It has been preparing for such a possibility since 1992 when it engaged Hizballah in the Lebanese political process and secured the election of its representatives to the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies.

Syria's flexibility has been reflected not only in its way of handling the Israeli-U.S. proposal, which it took time before rejecting, but also in President Hafiz al-Asad's agreement to meet with King Husayn and President Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo. Then he met with both in Damascus. Without doubt the Jordanian monarch would not have gone to Damascus if Syria had nothing to tell him on the eve of Binyamin Netanyahu's arrival in Amman.

Amid all these developments Lebanon acted calmly at government level, because the important thing for it is Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territory, without that meaning separating its negotiation track from the Syrian track. The Lebanese aim is clear, whether through Resolution 425 or anything else, as long as the demand is for the occupation to be removed and for the internal social peace — which has helped the country to stay away from the intensive care unit and to continue the building and reconstruction process under extremely complicated regional conditions — to be safeguarded.

Just as Syria has been flexible, Lebanese officials are supposed to take a similar position, especially as they are convinced that the price — the south's occupation and the continuation of the security islands — remains very small compared with the price of engaging in tricks such as separating the two tracks...before Damascus reaches the conviction that such a separation could be in its interests. Who knows? The southern Lebanon card could at some point turn into an Israeli card. Besides, Syria might discover later that the proposal can be built on in a manner that serves its interests if it gets the required price.

Algeria

Algeria: FFS Leader Says Current Leadership Will Not Solve Crisis

LD0508153296 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the framework of invitations sent on 29 July to the leaders of political parties and the secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers to participate in bilateral meetings, President Liamine Zeroual today received at the presidency a delegation of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] led by Debaili Seddik. [passage omitted]

Following this meeting, the first secretary of the FFS made the following statement to Messaoud Boulatiour [the radio correspondent]:

[Begin Debaili recording] We came for the third time to the presidency of the republic to confirm, once again, that a lasting solution for the crisis that the country was going through was, first of all, the end of violence and bloodshed, and the return to the democratic process. During this meeting, we have noticed that there are still differences as regards the proposals and solutions proposed by the two sides.

We believe that the presidency's plan will not lead us to a lasting solution of the crisis Algeria is going through. If Zeroual's intentions are good, we are still waiting for concrete acts. I confirm, once again, that the plan of the regime in power will not get us out of the crisis and will fail in finding solutions to the crisis.

As far as the FFS is concerned, we are ready and we are still working for a return of peace, the democratic process in our country, and social justice. As far as the committees [committees the presidency proposed to set up in order to examine the various aspects of the crisis] are concerned, we have not reached, yet, a political agreement. The issue of the committees remains secondary. [end recording]

Algeria: FFS Leader Says Differences Continue Between Zeroual, FFS

LD0608171696 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In news of the national dialogue process, the series of bilateral meetings is continuing at the office of the presidency. Yesterday, President Liamine Zeroual met a delegation of the Socialist Forces Front, led by Seddik Debaili, its first secretary. He told our correspondent Nacera Cherid of the persistent differences of opinion between his party and the presidency over a possible resolution of the current crisis.

[Begin Debaili recording] For the third time, we have come to the president's office to reiterate our analysis of the situation and the solutions to the crisis — solutions that we think should be political, peaceful, comprehensive, and final. They can only be reached through an end to civil strife and a return to the democratic process. We have come to the conclusion that there are still differences between us insofar as the analysis of the situation is concerned as well as in matters of procedure that are doomed to failure. There may be good intentions — opening up the political terrain, opening up the media, re-establishing the democratic process — but we will judge the presidency on the basis of its actions. Regarding the commissions [proposed by the presidency to discuss contentious issues], as long as we have failed to reach a political agreement on solving the crisis, we think that the issue of commissions is secondary. [end recording]

Algeria: FFS Announces Withdrawal From Dialogue Process

LD0608205696 Algiers ENT Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Seddik Debaili, secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], held a news conference today at his party's premises in which he recalled his party's meetings with the president of the republic, in the context of the national dialogue, as well as bilateral and multilateral meetings with other parties.

Debaili said that his party primarily seeks a return to civil peace. He expressed his position in respect of the national dialogue and the presidential memorandum, and concluded by saying that his party has decided to withdraw from the current dialogue process until the conditions are met for a genuine dialogue, as he put it.

Mr. Debaili also expressed his party's commitment, together with other political forces and organizations, to any initiative aimed to bringing back civil peace, democracy and social justice.

Algeria: FFS Denounces Zeroual's Security Policy

LD0608181796 Paris Radio France International in French 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the main opposition parties, the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], has announced it will not take part in the next national conference. The FFS has denounced, among other things, the fact that President Zeroual focuses far too much on security. It has announced, however, that it will take part in the legislative elections scheduled to take place next year.

Algeria: 5 Injured in Bomb Attack on Restaurant
LD0608144296 Paris France-Info Radio in French
1400 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been another bomb attack in Algeria. A bomb exploded at lunch time today in a busy restaurant in Algiers. Five people were slightly injured. The toll is not as serious as it might have been because the bomb was spotted and patrons were able to evacuate the premises.

The bomb attack targeted a restaurant popular with the Algerian security forces.

Algeria: New Governor for Algiers; FIS Operations 'Regain Strength'

MM0208115896 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
2 Aug 96 p 6

[Unattributed report: "The Islamic Salvation Front: The Corrupt Jihad Line in the Center Has Ended; Algeria: Former Minister To Become the Capital's Governor"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, London — Sources close to the Algerian presidency said that Cherif Rahmani, former equipment minister in Mokdad Sifi's government, is to become the Algerian capital's governor with the rank of minister. This will be the first time in Algeria's history since independence that a minister has become a governor.

The same sources said that the objective behind his appointment is "to restore order to the Algerian capital."

With regard to security matters, a retired policeman was killed the day before yesterday in el Harrach. Eyewitnesses told AL-HAYAH that forces of the People's National Army assisted by mobile Gendarmerie units wiped out a bogus security block in Setif governorate, to the east of the country. They added that the clash lasted several hours and left nine armed elements dead and some soldiers wounded.

Meanwhile, the AL-RIBAT bulletin, published by Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) supporters abroad, said that the Algerian regime will not be able to resolve any issue militarily to its advantage. In its issue to be distributed today, it wrote that "the policy of confrontation was implemented against the jihad and the mujahidin since October 1994, by adopting a scorched earth policy." It added that the regime has often announced that "it has sanitized the mujahidin areas, with only some pockets remaining, which will soon be eliminated." It added that the Algerian authorities "have adopted a strategy for running the country as they wish, asking the political class just to agree without opposition, with a view to taming the democratic process."

It said that the recent meetings between the presidency and the parties "have shown that the security situation has not improved.... Instead, the operations have regained their strength and have been directed against specific targets which are concentration points for the (security) forces." It mentioned several Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) operations in the east (Setif and Mellila), the west (el Ouldja and Oued Rhiou), and the center of Algeria.

It said that these operations reaffirm "first, that the FIS will remain the missing element in any Algerian dialogue, and that a solution without serious negotiation with it is not possible and will only cause the situation to deteriorate further; and second, that the corrupt line (the AIS) which led the jihad in the center, wrecked the political arena during the popular ballot, and caused an increase in hostility toward neutrality in the center, has ended, and that to disguise it or cover it in any way would not serve any purpose or do any good."

AL-RIBAT published excerpts from the AL-INQADH bulletin (number 12) listing recent AIS operations.

Meanwhile, the AL-SABIL bulletin, published by FIS supporters in Britain, commented on the meetings between the presidency and the parties, saying that "it has now become certain that the authorities want to say to the opposition: We have decided and therefore you must obey." It added: "The experience of the past and clear signals do not indicate that the authorities are serious about providing a solution."

Algeria: Zeroual Meets With General Union Representatives

LD0408145596 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In his second meeting within the current round of bilateral dialogue, President Liamine Zeroual met this morning the representatives of the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA] led by its secretary general, Mr. Abdelhak Benhamouda.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Betchine, minister adviser, and Abdelmadjid Bouzidi, adviser in charge of economic affairs at the Presidency of the republic.

The meeting comes within the context of seeking identical views between the Presidency and the various parties in the dialogue.

After that meeting, Mr. Benhamouda made the following statement to colleague Mohsen Karim Slimani.

[Begin Benhamouda recording] We talked about the proposal, which we submitted at our previous meeting,

on a national conference and the economic and social policy. On this last issue, we agreed on how to organize the conference and the social policy issues that are to be studied in detail. In general, there are identical views and proposals. In conclusion, we agreed that this week we would set up a joint commission for starting the preparations of the conference that would naturally be after the tripartite meeting between the UGTA, the government, and the other social parties and after the national concord conference.

The second topic we discussed was the conference on the basis that the national concord conference will be on an agreement on a platform on which all parties will agree and the commitments that all the parties will make and the method or the way political dealings will be in the future between... [pauses] There is another issue which we submitted as a general union and which is about participation in all the commissions that have a bearing on the future of the country, including the commission for preparing the national concord conference and the commission for amending the constitution. Thus, here there is an agreement on the basis of which all the parties that have participated in the dialogue will work within these two commissions. [There is also another] commission that is concerned with reviewing the law on associations of a political nature.

The remaining parties that are concerned with this new round of dialogue are the Socialist Forces' Front, the Ennahda Movement, the National Liberation Front, the Ettahadi Movement and the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and HAMAS, the Islamic Society Movement. Yesterday, the president met a delegation from the Rally for Culture and Democracy. [end recording]

Algeria: Ennahda Movement Leader on Meeting With Zeroual

LD0608152796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In his fourth meeting within the framework of the current round of bilateral dialogue, Liamine Zeroual, the president of the republic, has met a delegation from the Ennahda Movement, made up of Abdallah Djaballah, the president of the movement, and two members from the movement, Habib Adami and Mustapha Bouguerra.

The meeting was attended by Mohamed Betchine, minister adviser, and Abdelmadjid Bouzidi, adviser in charge of economic affairs at the Presidency of the Republic. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, 'Abdallah Djaballah made the following statement to our colleague Mohsen Slimani saying

that his movement has agreed to take part in the meetings of the various committees.

[Begin Djaballah recording] During the meeting we discussed a number of topics. The first one dealt with the constitutional amendment, the second with a national conference on the national charter, and the third topic revolved around the committee of laws regulating parties, and that of the electoral law. The last topic was the national social and economic conference.

To conclude the movement agreed to take part in the committees and it would defend its ideas with all its efforts at the committees' level. [end recording]

Algeria: Government Committee Established for Algiers Development

LD0408182296 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The services of the Prime Ministry today issued a statement saying that following the signing of the presidential decree which promoted the Algiers governor to the rank of minister plenipotentiary and extraordinary for Algiers Province, the prime minister today signed a decree relating to the setting up of a permanent committee for the follow-up of planning and development of the capital city [Algiers].

The committee which is headed by the prime minister is composed of the minister plenipotentiary and extraordinary [for Algiers Province] and the following members of government:

The minister of interior, local authorities and environment; the minister of finance; the minister of equipment [and urban planning]; the minister of housing; the minister of transportation; the minister delegate [to the finance minister] in charge of the budget; and the minister delegate to the prime minister in charge of planning.

This measure is aimed at mobilizing the necessary level of energy and the means required for preparing and implementing an effective plan for planning and developing the capital city Algiers.

Algeria: FIS Leader To Take Belgium To Court Over Ben Othman Case

BR0208145696 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 2 Aug 96 p 7

[Report by Eric de Bellefroid]

[FBIS Translated Text] Raised by his peers to the rank of a "martyr" in the struggle for Algerian freedom, Bouasria Ben Othman has become the posthumous hero of a diplomatic-judicial dispute which could well make waves, given that the deceased mar family has decided

to lodge a complaint against the Belgian judicial system and that his case will, it is said, be defended by attorney Jacques Verges.

In addition to the precise information available to the Belgian authorities about Ben Othman's membership of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the head of the FIS's parliamentary delegation abroad, Anouar Haddam, whom we succeeded in contacting in Washington, has also assured us that he himself had sent the Belgian authorities a letter of recommendation in favor of "brother" Bouasria, when the latter requested asylum last October.

When one looks at the file put together by the Ben Othman family, and more specifically by his brother Lazrek, who has been living in Belgium for three years, Bouasria's expulsion is increasingly difficult to explain. "Belgium," Anouar Haddam regrets, "knew that Bouasria was condemned to death in his country. Why then did those in charge in Belgium decide to extradite him? Finally, let us leave justice pursue its course."

"This unworthy act," Haddam continues, "lifts the veil on the case of a dozen other FIS members which have been delivered up in this way to the regime." Is it certain, when all is said and done, that Bouasria has indeed been murdered? "The Algerian authorities deny this. In any event, the body has not been handed back to his mother."

Anouar Haddam then went on to attempt to restore the FIS's credibility in our eyes. "The FIS is a political party. The party of the majority of Algerians. It is our duty to do everything possible to free the country from this junta which has taken power in its hands. When we are blamed for the massacre of the seven French monks, I can tell you on the contrary that these monks were friends. But who was behind this climate of tension? Who refuses every political solution to the crisis? Who is behind extremists like Djamel Zitouni? With this criminal, we had a GIA [Armed Islamic Group] of cutthroats. According to our sources he has been eliminated, thank God."

Anouar Haddam also energetically denies any part by the FIS in the terrorism. "We have firmly condemned the terrorist deeds committed in France last summer. We have denied that this was stirred up by the Mojahiddin (GIA). Unless Zitouni...." This would tend to prove, if proof were still needed, that serious dents have been made in the united front put up by the Algerian Islamic fundamentalist movement.

Put simply, the FIS's leader abroad — a privilege he moreover shares with Rabah Kebir, who lives in Germany — is sending the message that Bouasria was a

member of the FIS, that he was not a terrorist, that Belgium decided not to take into account his repeated requests for asylum and the subsequent appeals, and that "his extradition constitutes a criminal act." "Those responsible should be pursued by Belgian justice, with the involvement of the international authorities if necessary. The FIS is bringing a civil action. And no maneuver will be able to prevent judicial proceedings...."

All that is lacking, finally, is formal proof of Bouasria's death. But no one in the Ben Othman family still dares to believe in his "resurrection."

Algeria: DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives on Official Visit To Algiers

LD0608165796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, arrived this morning in Algiers on an official visit. He was met by Issa Bai, deputy [speaker] of the Transitional National Council.

Nayif Hawatimah, speaking in the VIP lounge at Houari Boumediene Airport made the following statement to Sami Nazih.

[Begin Hawatimah recording] This visit comes within the context of bilateral coordination and with the aim of a new understanding of the situation in the Middle East region, and in particular the Palestinian case in the light of the coming [to power] of the right-wing alliance, the expansionist enemy in the Jewish government. [end recording]

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS0508120396 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 30 Jul 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial: Burning all the "exit cards" to perpetuate the status quo!

Following the military coup against the people free choice, Algeria had at its disposition two "political cards" that, according to many observers, could have ended the tragedy and have prepared a new start under a new and fair system. The two "cards" that were available then, for the Algerian people to take their affairs in their own hands, were to provide a freely chosen parliament and a freely chosen president.

The military regime was hasty to "burn down" one of the two cards by unilaterally deciding on a presidential election under the still ongoing state of emergency. Certain observers saw, from the participation rate figure announced by the military regime, a message of the Algerian people putting the end of the tragedy as the priority against which no other priority can be compared. The regime inconsistency with itself, has developed another reading of the figures it has "uncheckably" declared. For the regime the elections were a message by which the Algerian people have shown their "adoration to General Zeroual" and have given him a "blank cheque".

What is the people general feeling now, eight months after the elections and how these later have affected the situation?

The Algerian situation has gone from bad to worst these past few months. There is hardly a single day where one does not hear about death and blood. The economical situation is catastrophic and the only generated finances are those "grabbed through selling a little more of Algeria sovereignty" by ways of new loans or rescheduling old ones. The social situation is explosive as a wave of industrial actions are queuing up. Unemployment and inflation are out of control.

The regime would not have taken the slightest risk in organising last November election had it not taken "all the necessary precautions" to "win" them. More and more revelations are coming to the surface from parties who have taken part in the November elections as well as from journalists and organisations which show how illegal some of those "precautions" were. The "legitimacy" of November elections seems to be eroding as time goes by! If many in the political class have chosen not to "waist time" arguing about this issue, some in the army high command, however are not ready to accept it as their "undisciplined" behaviour shows. The only useful thing as far as these elections are concerned, and which were more of an "instant monitoring picture" of the population feelings, is the real figures and their regional distribution. The real figures have been used as a basis to shape up the regime "post-elections" policies of which the latest "closing the FIS file" is a direct consequence which shows that the regime fear of the people "uncontrollable political preference" is not of a mere psychological nature but has a real basis. The distribution of the votes has been a basis for the "regional distribution" of the repression.

The second "political card", that of a true representative parliament, seems to have already been "burned out" by the regime policy of exclusion.

The question that people are anticipating today is what will be the situation if the military regime "succeed" in

having an "apartheid" type of parliament to use as a tool to implement further its policy of "divide to reign" while keeping decisions on vital issues on the same hands.

The regime will most propably and as usual, try to carry the Algerian dream from one station to another, from "presidential elections", to "parliamentary elections" and so on and so forth chanting "viva the eternal status-quo!".

The Algerian "specific democracy", "specific republic" and specific apartheid"! — The specific Democracy!

The following declaration which may as well be nominated for the "locution of the century" contest, was made by the military regime prime minister Ouyahia to the military junta designated "parliament" (called CNT) on the 10/07/96: "I must say that it is difficult to evaluate, on such a short period, the government achievement. But this evaluation comes in agreement with the CNT regulations. THIS REFLECTS THE SPECIFICITY OF THE ALGERIAN DEMOCRACY, THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WHICH EVALUATES THE GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES EVERY SIX MONTHS!" [as published] [End of quotation].

Comment: No comment except that Mr Ouyahia is in deep need of a very long vacation preferably paid by some medical insurance company.

The specific Republic!

In his "specific Democracy", Mr Ouyahia sometimes, "forgets" to be "transparent" about important issues that affect Algeria future.

For example, Mr Ouyahia concealed from the Algerian people (unintentionally most probably!) the fact that in this period of crisis where he "has to" reduce by force the workers wages, he has send a delegation of fifty or so of "super-Algerians" youngsters to Tunisia all expenses paid on the top of French Francs 3 000 (about 300) of pocket money for just two days stay. The purpose of their visit is to take the French version baccalaureate test. Amongst these future "masters by birth" of Algeria, are the sons of Mr Ouyahia and of his foreign minister Attaf.

If the Plato's definition of a Republic is that which promote the most able youth for the leadership of tomorrow, Mr Ouyahia "specific Republic" does not as the rate of these students success in that test did not exceed 5%. Then Again these youngsters are not to blame as they may be more intelligent than what the results may have shown. It could be that they have come up with the right answer to the deep philosophical

question of " why getting education in Algeria of today?!".

Ah! If the author of "le fils du pauvre" (the poor man's son), Mouloud Feraoun has lived to this!

The "specific apartheid" !

Mr Ouyahia's concept of "specific democracy" and "specific Republic" is well shared by his propaganda minister Mihoubi, "the TV images traffic policeman", the one with the "big pair of censorship scissors" who decide what the Algerian people should or should not see and hear.

During the ceremony of price distribution to the best Algerian students of the year (those "second class" youth who have not the "right type of parents" to be eligible for the trip to Tunisia), four girls out of the first six who received prizes were wearing Islamic dress. However, after the ceremony, Mr Mihoubi's (private) TV has shown many scenes of the students and had interviewed about ten of them but none of students with islamic dress was shown. So the "specific Democracy" in the "specific Republic" was turned into a "specific Apartheid", where what people like the French minister Bayou, say is more respected that the saying of the prophet Mohammed (p.b.u.h).

A famous TV presenter was sacked from her job because she started to dress "islamic" in Algeria, a country which constitution says in one of its articles that "Islam is the religion of the state", which the "legality" issued from the illegal coup d'Etat of January 92 is going to eradicate.

Heard here and there: Mr Nahnah again!

The well informed French satiric newspaper "le Canard enchaîné" which is known to have brought to the attention of the public many secret files embarrassing to high ranked officials who consequently saw their political career put to end, has published an interesting article concerning Mr Nahnah's visit to France lately. The article was published in the newspaper issue of the 24 July 1996. Following is its integral translation: Title: "The guarding dogs of the Maghreb" Subtitle: "New exploit of an Algerian type" "Last month, Mahfoud Nahnah, candidate of the moderate islamist movement Hamas (25% in the presidential election), came to Paris. Received in the Quai d'Orsay, in the Defence and Interior ministries, he has roughly said to the high officials who received him: "It will be good that you will help my movement to infiltrate and to control the Algerian immigration (expatriate), in order to avoid any growth of the radical islamism.". And this nice bearded guy has well explained to his interlocutors

who were astonished, that his imprudent (barbouzarde) endeavour had the blessing of the military in power in Algiers. Beside all this, Nahnah is playing the opponents (to the regime)." [End of the article] No comment! - Last Thursday (25/07/96) Nahnah has declared to the Algerian TV (the 20:00 hour Journal) the following: "Yes the previous rounds of dialogue (with the military junta) has brought good results which are the providing of a legitimate president!" [End of quotation.].

ACB Communique on the murder by torture of an FIS member!

The Algerian Community in Britain has learned about the barbaric murder of brother Ben Othman Bouathira known as Said, by the military regime torturers in Algeria.

Br. Said was a member of the FIS bureau in the Mostaghanem department (west of Algeria). Following the military coup of 1992 and the harsh repression, he was sentenced to death in absentia as many other FIS leaders were.

Br Ben Othman Said fled with his life to Belgium where he applied for refuge. The Belgium authorities have turned down his application and sent him to his killers in Algeria on the 15 of July 1996.

After having tortured him inhumanly until he collapsed dead, his torturers have called his mother to come and collect the corpse.

The Algerian Community in Britain strongly condemns this cruel assassination committed by the military regime torturers and strongly deplore the behaviour of the Belgium authorities in delivering the victim to the hands of his ruthless murderers.

The ACB call for all Human right organisations to put full lights on this tragic events in order to establish all responsibilities involved in this murder. London, 28/07/96. The Algerian Community in Britain.

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak, 'Arafat Discuss Peace Contacts

NC0608173396 Cairo MENA in Arabic

1713 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—President Hosni Mubarak telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tonight. Their discussion dealt with the ongoing contacts to give momentum to the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

Egypt: Syrian President Al-Asad Arrives in Alexandria

NC0708102496 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0945 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 7 Aug (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Alexandria this afternoon for a few-hours visit to Egypt. During the visit al-Asad will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Arab arena and ways to advance the Middle East peace process on all tracks.

Egypt: Newspapers Criticize Netanyahu for Reneging on Statements

NC0708072696 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0500 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-AHRAM newspapers for today deal with the statements Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made during his joint news conference with King Husayn of Jordan in Amman and the serious moves that are currently taking place in the Middle East peace process.

In its editorial today AL-AKHBAR notes the Israeli prime minister's desire to resume peace negotiations with Syria after King Husayn explained to him Syria's desire for peace. This desire was confirmed during the king's meeting with President al-Asad in Damascus recently. The paper says these statements seem very encouraging.

AL-AKHBAR adds: It is very clear that the Israeli prime minister is fully convinced of the Egyptian viewpoint that a permanent, just, and comprehensive peace is the only way to realize security for all and is the best method for stopping the buildup of an atmosphere that promotes violence and extremism.

AL-AKHBAR says that the Arab desire for peace is genuine and is repeatedly declared in the Cairo summit statement, in which the Arabs confirm that peace is their firm strategy.

AL-AHRAM warns about contradictions in the Israeli prime minister's statements. He makes statements after every meeting with an Arab leader but as soon as he returns to his own country he exploits any development he believes is negative to reverse some of these statements and not implement them. The newspaper points out that while in Jordan he announced that the siege imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has been eased, but as soon as he returned home he went back on the decision to ease the siege.

AL-AHRAM says: The Israeli prime minister's objective in using this tactic is to create as many contradictions as possible in the stances of the Arab parties involved in bilateral negotiations in order to enable Israel to get what it wants, such as exploiting these contradictions to impair any Arab attempt at coordination.

AL-AHRAM notes that Israel's Lebanon-first proposal is part of this tactic. Israel's objective is to create and fuel contradictions between Syria and Lebanon, and to weaken the chances for preserving Arab coordination that crystallized clearly after the expanded Arab summit held in Cairo in June.

AL-AHRAM demands that coordination among the Arab countries involved in the direct bilateral negotiations be given strong impetus in order to motivate the Israeli Government to continue its policies. The Israeli Government's objective is to tamper with the various tracks and take advantage of the absence of Arab coordination.

Egypt: Information Minister Presents Report on Visit to Libya

NC0608115296 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic* 1000 GMT 6 August 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif presented a report to President Husni Mubarak this morning on the outcome of his visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. The minister said he had conveyed to President Mubarak an oral message from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

The information minister noted that the message reflects al-Qadhafi's point of view, which is identical to that of President Mubarak on many issues, particularly the promotion of the Middle East peace process within the framework of the Arab summit's resolutions and the summit's success in presenting it in the international arena. The message also states his appreciation for the efforts made and the role assumed by Egypt and President Mubarak to bring points of view closer with regard to the Lockerbie issue.

The information minister added that brother Col. al-Qadhafi expressed his appreciation for and welcome of the initiatives and ideas proposed by President Mubarak during his U.S. visit regarding a number of issues that concern the international community.

Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo earlier today after a two-day visit to Libya, during which he conveyed a message from President Mubarak to Col. al-Qadhafi.

Libya

Libya: Coup Attempt Reportedly Foiled in Mid-July

JN0608171496 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
5 Aug 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi managed to thwart a coup attempt in mid-July. The coup attempt was masterminded by Colonel Khalifah Haftar. He is one of the 1 September revolution officers, but he differed with al-Qadhafi and sought refuge in the United States several years ago.

Informed sources in Tripoli assert that the United States allowed Col. Haftar to arm hundreds of men and train them on its territory. He managed to land hundreds of men, armed with various weapons, in the al-Jabal al-Akhdar area, far from Tripoli, the capital. The aim of the operation was to set up military camps from which they could move to seek the support of civilians and military units in the area. Then, they would march toward the capital to occupy it and force al-Qadhafi to flee or give up power.

The sources say that the Libyan authorities learned about the Col. Haftar's landing operation two days after his troops took positions in al-Jabal al-Akhdar and before they could organize their ranks and start implementing their plan.

The sources indicate that al-Qadhafi left Tripoli to a location close to the battlefield in the al-Jabal al-Akhdar area. Al-Qadhafi himself supervised the Air Force planes as they pounded the coupists' hideouts for several days before the ground forces managed to besiege and detain the survivors.

Libya: Purge Law Said Used Against Fundamentalists; 'Colonel' Held

MM0508141296 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 5 Aug 96 pp 1,4

[Report by Sawasn Abu-Husayn in Cairo and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London: "Scores of People Including One Colonel Arrested in Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Libyan diplomatic source described yesterday's reports of arrests in Libya which were part of an anticorruption drive as being "inaccurate." In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the source refused to comment on rumors that a colonel was among those arrested, and said that the "purge law" — Libyan Leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi last June ordered the setting up of committees composed of junior officers to implement it — "is clear and only aimed at offenders. All the campaigns being carried out

come within the anticorruption drive and are aimed at protecting the economy against currency dealers and the black market."

Libyans who arrived in Cairo yesterday said that a colonel called Nuri al-Sabba' was among those arrested. They added that this officer was the head of the antinarcotics service in Benghazi, and was taken with other people to the city of Tajurah to the west.

The Libyan diplomatic source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Libyan leadership is "keen to protect the rights of the Libyan and Arab citizen and use the purge law to bring order to the situation, away from rumors of security troubles." Libyan opposition sources contacted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT could neither confirm nor deny the officer's arrest, saying that they had never heard of such an officer, and that his last name is "unusual" in Libya. However, a source explained that the Libyan regime "has reserved the expression 'antinarcotics' for the fundamentalist groups" and hinted that the colonel's arrest, if confirmed, "could be linked to the campaign against the fundamentalists" whom the Libyan leader accused of being "atheists" and with whom the Libyan security forces have had several clashes, the most important being last March's incidents in Durnah.

The travelers said that last week Col. al-Qadhafi set up special police groups to arrest people suspected of illicit gains and confiscate their goods.

They said that the campaign is aimed basically at jewelers, exchange bureaus, and import and export offices all over Libya, and that the authorities cut the communication lines between the provinces to guarantee the success of the campaign.

One of the travelers said that members of the police are closing down Libyan and foreign-owned shops and offices which have committed offenses, and that they are raiding homes to confiscate goods. Last month the police closed down and set fire to many shops owned by foreigners suspected of being fundamentalists.

Libya: Consultations Held With Egypt on Lockerbie Solution

MM0708100796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
7 Aug 96 p 6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Egyptian-Libyan Consultations Deal With 'Legal Formula' To End Lockerbie Crisis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — AL-HAYAH has learned that Egyptian-Libyan consultations over the past two days dealt with ways of ending the Lockerbie crisis

on the basis of Libya's acceptance that the two men suspected of being behind the blowing up of the PanAm plane over Lockerbie (Scotland) in 1988 should stand trial in a third country. Libya is refusing to hand over the two suspects, 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi and al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah, to the United States or Britain.

The Libyan-Egyptian consultations were conducted after President Husni Mubarak stressed during his recent visit to Washington the need to look for a formula through which to "avoid collectively punishing the peoples for accusations leveled at individuals of committing terrorist actions," within a comprehensive view for handling the issue of combating terrorism.

Egypt and Libya are currently studying legal proposals aimed at securing a peaceful solution to the Lockerbie crisis — a solution acceptable to all parties and that does not conflict with Security Council Resolution 731 calling for the two suspects' extradition, Libya's sovereignty and right to defend its citizens, or guarantees of a fair trial for them.

Informed Egyptian sources have revealed that a number of "proposals are under consideration," but the sources said that "it is not the time to reveal them," pointing to the "flexible and positive Libyan position of agreeing to the suspects' standing trial outside Libya." [passage omitted]

Libya: Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Talks Held With China

LD0608221996 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, the brother secretary of the General People's Committee met with Zhu Qizhen, a member of the standing committee of the National People's Congress [NPC] and vice-chairman of the NPC's Foreign Affairs Committee, who is on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyyah.

Ways of boosting and consolidating cooperation between the two friendly peoples in the Great Jamahiriyyah and China in various areas were discussed and studied. The bases for consolidating cooperation between the Secretariat of the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyyah and the National People's Congress in China were also discussed during the meeting.

Libya: PRC Affirms Support for Libya over Lockerbie Case

LD0608234896 Tripoli JANA in English
1443 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, 6 August (JANA) — The secretary of the General People's Committee for

Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation held a meeting in Tripoli last night with Chu Chichin a member of the permanent committee for the national deputies council and vice chairman of the foreign affairs of the national council in China and his accompanying delegation which is currently visiting Libya [sentence as received].

Chu Chichin renewed China's support for Libya's position in the so-called Lockerbie case and re-affirmed his country's rejection of the unfair sanctions imposed on Libya.

He also re-affirmed China's support for the resolution adopted by regional and international organisations, such as the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the Non-aligned Movement, which all support Libya in respect of the so-called Lockerbie case.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation expressed the Great Jamahiriyyah's appreciation for China's positions in support of the Arab-Libyan people in all international forums.

The meeting also confirmed the need to consolidate co-operative relations between Libya and China in all areas.

Libya: Islamic Group, Tribal Opposition Role Seen
MM0608155196 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
5-11 Aug 96 pp 18-21

[Report by Zaki Shihab: "Uprising of the 'Afghans' Against the 1 September Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Since the June 1995 clashes in the area of Umm-al-Ruzm east of Benghazi between the [Libyan] Islamic Group and the Libyan security forces, in which scores of people on both sides were killed including Shaykh Abu-Yahya, one of the group's main militant commanders, not a week has passed without an announcement in the Islamic Group's internal bulletins and related magazines about military operations, ambushes, or assassination attempts on regime loyalists and security officers.

Although the international media from time to time report incidents occurring in Libya, the erection of checkpoints, and street patrols, what is noticeable in the statements issued by the Libyan Islamic Group is that the operations it carries out are not confined to any particular area. They range from Benghazi where ambushes, storming of security centers, and assassination of security officers occur, to Tripoli where the central prison of Abu-Salim was stormed and where there were clashes with members of the military

police deployed in its perimeter, to al-Zawiyah, to Surt and other cities. What is significant about these operations is that they are mounted by the "Sunnis," as the public in the Jamahiriyah [Libya] call them. Despite the intensive tapping of telephone lines and stringent measures applied to travelers, news of the clashes in the major cities leaks out abroad, but not what happens in remote areas.

The people of Benghazi tell unverified stories of military operations. One such story is that a group of "Sunnis" managed to escape the siege imposed by the security authorities on the city of al-Marj (in the east of the Jamahiriyah) — they abducted a security official in the city and forced him to drive the car, with them in it, having planted an explosive device under his seat; they then ordered him to proceed to Benghazi and promised that they would not harm him if he obeyed, and they released him when they reached their destination.

'Ali al-Sharif, a Libyan figure who is an active member of the Libyan Human Rights League, says that what distinguishes these militant groups in Libya is the fact that they consist of young people driven by repression, coercion, and arrest campaigns to confrontations with the regime and its security organs. He adds that the deterioration in economic and living conditions as a result of the weak purchasing power of the dinar, the absence of inflation index-linked pay increases, the delay in payment of government employees' salaries — sometimes as much as six months, the spread of black market trading, and the monopoly held by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, his children, and his in-laws on the state's resources, decisionmaking, trade, imports and exports, customs, and oil, have infuriated the general public.

Al-Sharif said that he has received information from reliable sources in the Jamahiriyah stressing that in one year of military clashes, 250 people from the ranks of the regime's loyalists were killed and 300 wounded, and 350 were killed and 480 were wounded from the ranks of the opposition organizations.

He pointed out that acts of violence in the country are carried out by members of unrelated Islamic organizations, perhaps not exceeding a handful. Al-Sharif revealed that a number of shaykhs living in Europe who have been promoting the ideas of the Islamic Armed Group [GIA] in Algeria are the same people promoting the ideas of the Militant Islamic Group [MIG] in Libya.

He added that the confrontation between the Islamists and the regime reached its peak on 16 June when units of the deterrent and special forces bombed the Ra's al-Hilal area in al-Jabal al-Akhdar using aircraft and Grad missiles because there was a concentration of Islamic

elements in the area. He told AL-WASAT that the Libyan Government initiated intense cooperation in the security field with the governments of the neighboring states, resulting in mutual extradition moves between Libya and Egypt, Tunisia, and Sudan.

'Ashur al-Shamis, editor of the LIBYA NEWS bulletin, says that the people who carry out military operations in northeastern and northwestern Libya are daring and that they have enough human and logistical resources to depend upon. He described them as a new breed of Islamic youth previously unknown to the Libyan regime, youths who believe in the Salafiyah ideology one of whose most prominent shaykhs was Muhammad al-Bashti, a skilled orator who died in prison under torture in 1981. Al-Shamis added that most young Islamic elements in Libya were influenced by the jihadist trends which appeared in Afghanistan in the eighties and later spread to Egypt, Algeria, Palestine, Jordan, and other Arab states. These elements refuse to be linked to known Islamic organizations such as the Muslim Brotherhood or the al-Tahrir Party, and they in fact strongly criticize these organizations.

One of the main questions asked after the spread of the news of the Umm-al-Ruzm and Benghazi confrontations was: Did the Libyan authorities take these groups by surprise thus forcing them into an open confrontation with the regime and opening the way for military operations in the cities of Benghazi, Tripoli, Ajdabiya, al-Bayda, Susah, Darnah, Tobruk, Misratah, Sabha, and Surt (birthplace of Col. al-Qadhafi), for which the MIG and the Islamic Martyrs Movement claimed responsibility?

Abu-Bakr al-Sharif, one of the most prominent commanders of the MIG, answering that question, said that "any jihadist group seeking to do its duty under the Shari'ah and to change the existing reality in its country must announce itself because it upholds a call and has a mission. It was necessary to time the announcement after the Libyan regime began to know about the MIG. It was, therefore, necessary to issue an explanation which came in a statement issued 18 October 1995, that is three months after the clashes in the east and west of Libya and the martyrdom of some members of the group in these confrontations, especially Shaykh Abu-Yahya, Sa'd al-Farjani, Rajab 'Arafah, Salih al-Shuhaybi, Khalid Baqshish, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Madi, 'Ali al-Qata'ani, and Muhammad Dubaybah."

The MIG's first statement, signed by Abu-'Abdallah al-Sadiq, its amir [leader], laid down the broad lines of its general policy saying, among other things, that "it is an Islamic group preparing for jihad against the enemies of God, and it believes in the faith of the people of the

Sunnah, the Prophet's companions, and the righteous predecessors and followers." On the ways of achieving the MIG's aims, the first statement said that fulfillment is through "jihad and propagation of the call by a group with an amir, a pledge of allegiance and obedience, and with reliance on secrecy in its work."

Leaders of the MIG view the members of the GIA in Algeria as brothers who believe in the same school of thought. The neighborly relations increase the chances of cooperation between them, although the MIG in Libya has distanced itself from some of the GIA's actions in Algeria after its amir Shaykh Abou Abdallah Ahmed was killed and Abou Abderrahmane Amin became its new amir.

In a statement signed by Abu-'Abdallah al-Sadiq, its amir, the Libyan Islamic Group said that its Algerian counterpart "shed some blood without there being a convincing justification under the Shari'ah, as in the case of Shaykhs Mohamed Said and Abderrezak Redjam," and this has led it to stop supporting "the Algerian brothers" out of the conviction that the jihad should be disciplined with Shari'ah controls and in accordance with a sound Shari'ah line.

The Libyan group said that a change in its attitude toward the Algerian GIA would depend on a change in its current leadership and policy, which seems to have occurred recently with the unconfirmed reports that Abderrahmane Amin, known as Djemal Zetouni, has been held and detained pending trial and execution.

The MIG in Libya seizes every opportunity to emphasize its rejection of division and the use of its elements' blood as a bargaining chip, having learned from others' failed experiments of multiple banners and selfish exploitation of the jihad.

The MIG supporters do not hesitate to criticize the Libyan Muslim Brotherhood and other opposition groups which view the clashes which occur as individual haphazard actions. A member of the Algerian Islamist leaderships known for their role in the Afghan jihad says that "the Libyan elements were the first Arabs to contribute to the jihad in Afghanistan, and some of them were martyred in the battlefield where they did well and were brave and daring." He added that "most of those mujahidin returned to their country and were called the 'Afghan Libyans.' Their numbers in Pakistan and Afghanistan sometimes exceeded 500, and this helped them place their military expertise at the disposal of the military activity which distinguishes the MIG from the rest of the Libyan opposition organizations."

The Libyan Islamic Group members do not acknowledge the importance of these other organizations whose existence or nonexistence are of no consequence to them "because these groups and factions believe in separating religion from the state," as an Islamic Group leader said. Its leaders firmly deny that their activity is confined to the eastern region of the Jamahiriya in general and Benghazi in particular. They say that the extensive presence of the various Libyan security organs in that region makes it difficult to engage in activities and actions, be it promoting the call or jihad actions, without military clashes like those reported by the media.

They say that their activities have, for example, covered Tripoli, al-Zawiyah, Surt, Tobruk, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, and other areas.

'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamisi, a former ambassador of his country who accuses the authorities of having tried to assassinate him some years ago, says that the increase in acts of violence threatens to result in large-scale bloody clashes, although the government tries to undermine the reputation of these elements and to describe them as shadowy, extremist, and terrorist. Al-Ghadamisi does not agree with the view that tries to deny any link between the opposition at home and abroad or between the various Islamic trends. He says that some forces abroad are not distant from what goes on at home and they represent political leaderships tangibly present among the masses.

One of the things observers of the North African situation are trying to find out is this: Is there any link between these hard-line groups and the main tribes in the Jamahiriya? 'Ali al-Sharif says: "The Libyan Government uses the carrot and stick policy, sometimes repressing and jailing members of these various tribes on various charges, pitting one tribe against another through sedition and skirmishes and infighting, and at other times tempting them with money and positions."

Recent travelers from Libya confirm that heavy loss of life and damages have been suffered by tribes and families, including the al-Qadhdhafah tribe to which al-Qadhdhafi belongs, after fierce acts of repression at the hands of Colonel al-Qanqa who was instructed to "discipline" some members of the tribe who were accused of some financial and administrative excesses. Ahmad Ibrahim, a former information and education minister, was one of those affected by the disciplinary measures.

The Warfalah tribe is one of the tribes opposed to the government. The link between it and the government was almost severed after the regime's organs discovered the existence of an organization led by officers from that tribe within the Armed Forces. As a result, a large

number of them were arrested and some were executed, and that led to major confrontations.

The relations between the Awlad Sulayman tribe and the government are no better than the latter's relations with the Warfalah tribe. Col. al-Qadhdhafi has replaced Ghayth Salim Sayf-al-Nasr, Libya's ambassador to Chad, with Buqurayn Salih Buqurayn, cousin of the Libyan leader. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Zadimah, who was considered close to al-Qadhdhafi, was brought to trial. The danger the Awlad Sulayman tribe poses to Col. al-Qadhdhafi's regime stems from the fact that it has old and close links with al-Qadhdhafi's tribe, and a large number of the al-Qadhdhafah tribe members are loyal to the Awlad Sulayman tribe and its shaykhs.

In western Libya where the al-Maqaribah tribe is concentrated, Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, formerly the second man in Libya, and 'Abdallah al-Sanusi, the current second man (brother-in-law of al-Qadhdhafi), are among the most prominent members of that tribe, which has a presence in the Armed Forces, the revolutionary committees, and the oil sector. Relations between the al-Maqaribah tribe and the government clearly receded following the differences between Jallud and al-Qadhdhafi over what was described as the flexible positions taken by the Libyan leader regarding the question of extraditing 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi, one of the two suspects in the case of the PanAm aircraft explosion over Scotland. The leaders of the tribe saw the Libyan leader's initiative as a prelude to handing their son over for trial in Britain or the United States.

In the far eastern part of Libya, the al-'Ubaydat tribe still believes that the death of former Interior and Justice Minister Ibrahim Bakkar was plotted by the Libyan intelligence organs. The minister died in a car accident in ambiguous circumstances on the Libyan-Tunisian border while on his way back from the airport of the Tunisian island of Jarbah about two years ago. The tribe also believes that its son Colonel Salih al-Sanusi 'Abd-al-Sayyid, who was once his country's ambassador to Baghdad and Amman, was killed in his apartment in Alexandria and that his killing was planned by the regime's organs which knew that he was coordinating with some opposition leaders abroad.

By establishing links by marriage with the al-Bara'isah tribe, the Libyan leader is trying to gain that tribe's support. Despite his success there, some traditional leaders of the tribe, such as Al Tamiyah and Bayt Haduth, led by former Prime Minister Husayn Ma'zaq, have not shown any loyalty to the regime. Some attribute that to their links with the Sanusi regime and their traditional loyalty to it.

The tribes of al-Magharibah, al-Hassah, Misuratah, and Farjan are expressing reservations almost openly about the regime despite the fact that some members of these tribes hold government positions. Al-Qadhdhafi tries to enlist the support of some members of other tribes in the Banghazi region by trying to get close to the al-'Awaqir tribe and by giving it funds and important government positions.

Morocco

Morocco: EU Grants Aid To Bolster Spain-Morocco Cooperation

LD0208190796 Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic
27 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed article: "European Aid Of 1.115 Million Dirham to Bolster Cooperation Between Morocco and Spain"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A source at the European Community [as published] said that the EC had approved aid amounting to 101.37 million Ecu (an Ecu is approximately 11 dirhams) to bolster cooperation between Morocco and Spain.

The same source said that this aid was allocated to developing the socioeconomic sector, improving the environment, preserving the architectural heritage, and improving communications through the use of fiber-optics in the city of Los Barrios.

Among the projects that will benefit from this aid are the project of electrical linking between Spain and Morocco by means of a marine cable across the Strait of Gibraltar, improvement of the ports of Cadiz, Algeciras, and the occupied Melilla and Ceuta.

The same source pointed out that the total investment allocated for this programme was 185.31 million Ecu including 83.94 million Ecu for the expenditures of the various regional, local, and other administrations for the period until 1999.

The main objectives of this program are the development of cooperation and speeding up the adaptation and integration of the region's economy into the internal market of the EC.

Morocco: EU Program To Support, Assist Private Sector

LD0508141296 Rabat MAP in English
1353 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Casablanca, Aug. 05 (MAP) — The European Commission decided to appoint two experts for a three year term to coordinate the program

of the European Union (EU) for the support and assistance to the Moroccan private sector.

The union will also contribute finance for the inception of a center for the development of the private sector to be called "Euro-Morocco Enterprise" and based in Casablanca. The two experts will be constituted coordinator and assistant coordinator of the program.

The center is created within the framework of the new relations between Morocco and the EU and follows the conclusion this year of the association accord between the two parties.

The center will help Moroccan enterprises, especially small ones, access to latest management and technological services and counselling that will enable them develop rapidly. A branch of the center will be opened in Tangiers, northern Morocco.

The center will on the other hand help find trade partners in Europe for the enterprises willing so and work out cooperation accords between them.

Morocco: Spanish Authorities Expel Moroccan Illegal Immigrants

LD0608161796 Rabat MAP in English
1257 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Madrid, Aug. 6 (MAP) — The Spanish authorities expelled Monday twenty-two Moroccan illegal immigrants who were arrested Sunday aboard a small boat at the Almeria coast.

The immigrants, who were turned back to the northern Moroccan port of Nador, were arrested while they were disembarking at the Tarrifa beach, southern Spain.

Morocco: Rabat Questions UN Number of Saharan Refugees

LD0608123796 Casablanca LIBERATION in French
25 Jul 96 p 4

[Unattributed article: "The High Commission for Refugees Continues Financing Polisario's [Popular

Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Separatists; Morocco Questions the Number of Saharan Refugees Given by the UN"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Moroccan representative has contested the number of Saharan refugees presented in the UNHCR [UN High Commission for Refugees] report, during the revision of the issue of special economic assistance, humanitarian aid and relief in the event of catastrophe by the UN Social and Economic Council and the UNHCR.

The Moroccan representative said, "As in other previous sessions of the executive committee of the UNHCR, Morocco wishes to reiterate its reserve in relation to the number of 165,000 refugees, quoted in the report."

The Moroccan delegation has regularly contested this figure, by supporting its rejection with objective argument, based on real and verifiable facts. For reasons incomprehensible to Morocco, the Moroccan representative said, the UNHCR had never carried out a census.

The very large estimation given by Minurso estimated 65,000 people were to be repatriated including children. The figure presented in the UNHCR report shows the contradiction and, hence the inexactitude of the figure of 165,000 which had never been checked or confirmed by the UNHCR, said the Moroccan representative. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Bahrain: Summit With Qatar, Saudi Mediation Proposed

JN0608131496 (Internet) Al-Ayyam WWW in Arabic
6 Aug 96

[Al-Ayyam is a Bahraini source]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, beloved deputy amir of the country, has stated that the best and most honorable solution to the dispute between the State of Bahrain and the State of Qatar basically and completely lies in rehabilitating the mediation effort of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, following a summit between the two countries' leaders to arrive at a comprehensive and final solution that is in line with the commitments and sovereign constitutional laws of the two countries.

This came in a response by his highness the deputy amir to a question put to him by the GULF NEWS AGENCY on whether the dispute between the two countries should be settled by the International Court of Justice or by a Saudi and Gulf mediation effort. His highness added: This noble Saudi mediation could serve as a basic and comprehensive mechanism for a solution. This mechanism would enable our two countries to reach agreement on common terms, achieve a cordial understanding, and promote the interests of the two peoples without any harm being done to any of them. In contrast, seeking the arbitration of the International Court of Justice would not achieve these aims. Rehabilitating the Saudi mediation effort would also promote the higher interests of the peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] as well as the GCC members' independent decisionmaking. The following is the text of the statement made by Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah in response to a query by the correspondent of the GULF NEWS AGENCY on whether the dispute between the two countries should be settled by the International Court of Justice or by a Saudi and Gulf mediation effort, and on how his highness views the upcoming GCC summit in Doha.

"We believe that the best and most honorable solution to the dispute between the State of Bahrain and the State of Qatar basically and completely lies in rehabilitating the mediation effort of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, following a summit between the two countries' leaders to arrive at a comprehensive and final solution that is in line with the commitments and sovereign constitutional laws of the two countries.

"This noble Saudi mediation, which could serve as a basic and comprehensive mechanism for a solution, would enable our two countries to agree on common terms, achieve a cordial understanding, and promote the interests of the two peoples without any harm being done to any of them. In contrast, seeking the arbitration of the International Court of Justice would not achieve these aims. This would also promote the higher interests of the peoples of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] as well as the GCC members' independent decisionmaking.

"We believe that fraternal Qatar's unilateral decision and determination to keep its case lodged with the International Court of Justice does not create a practical and propitious climate for the Saudi mediation which it publicly accepted. This is an unreasonable and abnormal tool of pressure on this mediation and on the State of Bahrain. As a matter of fact, this nullifies the possibility of achieving a solution that would satisfy the two fraternal countries and other fraternal countries, for that matter, and hopefully put an end to this dispute, which could have been averted if only it had not been raised.

"If fraternal Qatar adheres to the principle of arbitration, Bahrain does not object to developing the existing Saudi mediation to a level of arbitration sponsored by the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially since it is the first mediator, and under the umbrella of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to decide on the dispute issue, providing that Qatar should withdraw the case from the International Court of Justice. The brother's arbitration is undoubtedly better and more honorable than that of the alien and the outsider.

"Obviously, the settlement of the issue within this framework would constitute an accomplishment for all brothers within the GCC and for all Arabs, because the end product would stem from the heart of the region and reflect its wishes. With regard to your question on a joint Gulf mediation effort, the only way to achieve this is through the implementation of Articles 6 and 10 of the GCC's bylaws, which concern the Dispute Settlement Commission among GCC members. The GCC is authorized to do this if it so wishes. But it remains to be said that the brothers within the GCC have a basic role to play in supporting a fraternal solution between Bahrain and Qatar under the current Saudi mediation, which can be developed to a level of arbitration. By so doing, they would support a solution that would stem from the heart of the region and fraternal states and reflect the peculiarity of the region, which cannot be understood best except by its people.

"Unquestionably, all brothers within the GCC are keen to render successful the next GCC summit slated to be

held in Doha. The convening and success of this summit will be a test for us before our peoples and the entire world. We must demonstrate the required wisdom and farsightedness to pave the way, clear the atmosphere, remove obstacles, and avert a repeat of past mistakes and errors. We look forward to the future, and to better fraternal ties among GCC members. A wise man learns his lessons. It must be recalled that the armed aggression against us in al-Zubarah in 1987, and in Fasht al-Dibal in 1986 by Qatar did not promote better ties among the Arabian Gulf states, particularly since military force cannot force a status quo among fraternal states that committed themselves to resolving their disputes by peaceful and amicable means. Moreover, the abnormal and undesirable pressure which Bahrain was subjected to at the 1990 Doha summit, while fraternal Kuwait was under occupation, to extricate its endorsement of the (minutes) later called "an agreement" or even an "international agreement" was used by Qatar to file a case against Bahrain with the International Court of Justice. Such pressures did not reflect good experiences we seek to repeat at the 1996 summit, nor did they reflect honorable traditions and norms we seek to uphold once again. All our states are being exposed to the fateful dangers of terrorism, not to mention the threats posed to the security of their peoples and legitimacy. Such an approach, which is not positive, among brothers must be halted if we seek a successful summit and a common march that would meet challenges and promote stability and common security for all. We believe that frank political encounters to put things back on track are required. Our peoples have the right to be aware of the facts pertaining to relations among their states so that they may protect and safeguard these relations and remedy them. This is necessary if we are to achieve our common goals and objectives. All brothers must work hand in hand to achieve these goals and vindicate them, projecting a united front and a firm willpower dedicated to the achievement of the same and one goal. It is God who grants success in all that is to His liking."

**Bahrain: GCC Secretary General on Terror,
Borders, Iraq**

MM0608104496 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
5-11 Aug 96 pp 24, 25

[Interview with Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General Jamil Ibrahim al-Hujaylan, by 'Abd-al-Nabi Yusuf Shahin in Riyadh; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shahin] The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are located in a very sensitive region from both a geopolitical and an economic viewpoint. What are the implications for the GCC as an integration system?

[Al-Hujaylan] The GCC states are sitting on enormous oil resources, to which the Western world's economy, interests, and concerns are linked. The second Gulf war established this fact. Of course, we do not want our oil resources to be the cause of international conflicts because they are our main source of income, hence we try use them as a means of progress and development for our peoples. However, the behavior of some states in the region causes concern and worry and forces us to spend huge amounts of money on military armament which we would not have needed, had those states' thinking been along the same lines as ours. The fact that this is a sensitive region forces the GCC states to resort to more cooperation and coordination in their positions, as was recently the case when the state of Bahrain was faced with foreign interference which threatened its security and stability. The position of the GCC states on these incidents was clear for all to see.

[Shahin] How do you view the violence in Bahrain and the recent al-Khubar blast? Does this mean that the GCC states have now become targets for the political violence phenomenon which has spread to many Arab states?

[Al-Hujaylan] We view it with concern and consider it a serious and strange phenomenon which has invaded our peaceful societies with a view to undermining their stability and spreading uncertainty and chaos in them. If the acts of violence in Bahrain were caused by both internal and foreign elements that have been identified, the al-Khubar blast is more serious. This vile and criminal act must be dealt with, not only by deterrent security means but also by mobilizing national public opinion against this evil sabotage which is aimed at the security, the self-confidence, and the stability of the homeland as a whole. Although terrorism is the worst way to express anger or opposition, and despite the fact that it is vile and highly criminal, we must search for its causes and reach its roots. We should not try to deal with its consequences without either determining or eradicating its causes.

[Shahin] There are still some unresolved border issues between GCC member states. How do you envisage the GCC's future, should these issues remain unsettled?

[Al-Hujaylan] There were some border issues between GCC states which were resolved through goodwill, understanding, and cooperation. Only the border dispute between Qatar and Bahrain remains. The GCC states leaders' attention is focused on this issue.

[Shahin] There seem to be some differences with regard to the position of some GCC states on the international embargo against Iraq. How do you explain these differences?

[Al-Hujaylan] I do not believe that there are differences in their positions. They all agree on the need for Iraq to comply with all international resolutions concerning the embargo imposed on it. This commitment was reaffirmed in all GCC statements and resolutions. However, there are some limited-impact humanitarian initiatives which have come from some GCC states, which do not represent a failure to abide by those resolutions.

[Shahin] Do you not believe that this embargo, which has harmed the Iraqi people, could leave some hostility and hatred in Iraqi hearts toward their Gulf brothers and neighbors, because they believe that some Gulf states support maintaining this embargo in order to put pressure on Saddam Husayn's regime?

[Al-Hujaylan] History has taught us that, even though they may be innocent, peoples nearly always pay the enormous price of their leaders' mistakes. This has been one of the facts of political life in many Arab states over the past 50 years. I believe that this is due to a monopoly on power and on the decisionmaking process, and to a lack of loyal participation in the consultation process and in the formulating of advice and views on some matters by those citizens who are able to do so.

It would be unjust to say that some Gulf states support maintaining the sanctions on Iraq, because these sanctions were issued in accordance with international resolutions formulated with the help of many states which are sympathetic to Iraq, such as China, France, and Russia, and with the support of the whole world after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. That is why lifting the sanctions does not depend on the wishes of the Gulf but, instead, on the implementation of the international resolutions, which will inspire confidence and indicate that a fundamental change has taken place in Iraq's policy.

The Gulf states were among the first to welcome the oil-for-food resolution, because this affects the lives of their brothers in Iraq, and they hope that the reasons for maintaining the blockade will be removed and the plight of a brother Arab people ended. The most important of these reasons is the lack of a serious, genuine, and reassuring commitment to implement all the resolutions brought about by its invasion of Kuwait.

We must not forget that the GCC states that you have mentioned gave their total support, both political and non-political, to Iraq when military balances were tipped in favor of Iran, which was threatening Iraq's security and existence with its successive victories in southern Iraq, and as a result were subjected to Iranian political and security pressures. Countries such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which gave Iraq such outstanding support, do not want to harm it by starving it and blockading it.

[Shahin] In the event that the economic sanctions on Iraq are totally lifted and Iraq's economic return to the oil markets is followed by its political return, what would the impact be on relations with the GCC from a political and economic viewpoint?

[Al-Hujaylan] I do not believe that Iraq's return to the oil markets would be an economic disaster for the international oil market. The oil market is adaptable and can cope with any changes. Except for the past few years, Iraq has always been present on the oil market.

However, the political impact that the lifting of the sanctions would have on the GCC states' relations with Iraq would depend on the circumstances. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Saddam Addresses Cabinet on Economic Planning Needs

JN0508121596 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1024 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text Excerpt] Baghdad (INA)—President Saddam Husayn emphasized the importance of including the period that will follow the removal of the unfair embargo in planning the development of all sectors, especially the economic sector and its social repercussions.

Presiding over the 29th cabinet session here today, his excellency referred to the need to determine the precise support required by some industries that are needed by the state and society and whose development is desirable.

In a directive on how to tackle the needs of the state and society under the conditions of the unfair embargo, President Saddam Husayn affirmed that it is important for our view of these needs to be based on available resources and capabilities, so that any step taken will be part of an orchestrated move to tackle all aspects of life. He said: It must be a balanced view of all fields: industry, services, agriculture, education, higher education, etc. Moreover, this balanced view must also exist in the thinking and behavior of state offices, party organizations, federations, unions, the private sector, and all sectors of the population.

His excellency emphasized the importance of depending on our own resources and developing them through prudence and creativity. He said this must include all sectors of the state and society, noting that pooling and reorganizing our resources in a comprehensive and precise manner will have positive results and improve performance.

On the subject of water, President Saddam Husayn referred to the importance of developing irrigation methods, the exploitation of water, and the reclamation of land on the basis of past experience in order to serve our people's social conditions. This is in addition to the economic advantages that will result from the proper use of water in developing and expanding agriculture, he said.

His excellency emphasized the need to improve the performance of the Saddam Heart Surgery Center at the scientific and administrative levels and to ensure all the requirements for its proper performance.

The cabinet also discussed other items on its agenda and adopted the necessary decisions and recommendations.

Iraq: Saddam's Half-Brothers Reportedly Placed Under House Arrest

NC0608143496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 6 Aug (MENA)—Iraqi sources here have stated that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn recently issued a decision placing his half-brothers Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, a former interior minister, and Sab'awi Ibrahim al-Hasan, a former public security director, under house arrest. Saddam's decision followed a request by the two half-brothers to be allowed to travel outside Iraq.

Meanwhile, the same sources said that the Iraqi authorities recently arrested three prominent Kurdish figures living in Baghdad for their involvement in the defection of a large number of Iraqi army officers to Northern Iraq.

The Iraqi sources said Iraqi businessman Muhammad al-Rawi was killed by Saddam's son 'Udayy for demanding 'Udayy pay him back \$2 million. The sum was given to 'Udayy as a bribe in return for the businessman receiving trade concessions. But 'Udayy did not give such concessions and evaded repayment. The sources said the businessman's body was dumped in an area of Baghdad and the incident, which was reported as a car accident, has had a bad effect on other businessmen who are now panicking in fear of meeting the same fate.

The sources said Iraqi businessmen are used to paying protection money to 'Udayy to escape his wrath.

Iraq: U.S. Blamed for 'Abnormal Situation' in North Iraq

JN0608141996 Baghdad INA in English
1155 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 6, INA—An Iraqi writer has said that most of the American Administrations have behaved in their foreign policies and relations with states and communities on the basis of direct U.S. interest without any moral considerations.

In an article in AL-'IRAQ daily of Baghdad on Tuesday, Nuri Najm al-Marsumi said that since the collapse of the Soviet Union, which led to a uni-polar world political system, the U.S. has tried to revive means of colonialism through extending its military presence to different areas of the world.

Al-Marsumi said that the so-called safe haven in northern Iraq and the presence of Force Hammer [as received] in the Turkish base of Incirlik have disturbed peace in the region.

He explained that the declared American aim is to protect Kurds in north Iraq. However, the non-declared aim behind the deployment of the Force Hammer is to create pretexts to keep the unjust embargo on Iraq in place and to maintain tension in the region to continue to blackmail Arab Gulf states under the pretext of securing U.S. protection for these states, said the writer.

He commented on the recent Iranian incursion and aggression on north Iraq, occupation of Kou Senjaq and the raising of the Iranian flag on the town.

Al-Marsumi said that, however, there has not been any reaction on the part of the Force Hammer whose planes carry out more than 40 sorties over the area daily. And it seems that the foreign invasion of and aggression on the area are done under the protection of American warplanes, he said.

The real American interest behind keeping the abnormal situation in northern Iraq is to inflict huge political and economic damage on the Kurdish people and create chaos in southeast Turkey as well as encourage Iran to interfere in the region's affairs under different justifications, the Iraqi writer concluded.

Iraq: U.S. 'Provocations' Against Iraqi Shipping Protested to UN

*JN0608124096 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1935 GMT 5 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 5 Aug (INA)—Iraq called on the United Nations to intervene to stop the U.S. forces' repeated provocations against Iraqi shipping in the Gulf. Such provocations reveal the U.S. Administration's intention to create tension and instability in the region, and to terrorise it to achieve its own objectives.

In a letter he delivered to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali today, Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, said a U.S. Navy helicopter pursued and harassed the Iraqi vessel al-Fida' at 2300 on 25 July 1996 when it approached Khawr al-'Amiyah, heading toward the entrance of Khawr 'Abdallah. This is despite the fact that the vessel responded to the questions of the U.S. helicopter's crew, which included the vessel's point of departure, destination, number of crew members, and cargo.

In his letter, Ambassador Hamdun added: At 0005 on 26 July 1996, the crew of the U.S. helicopter contacted the crew of the vessel once again and asked them to sail to a specific point where the vessel would be searched. The helicopter then flew at low altitude over the vessel, directed its flash lights at it, and issued warnings to

the crew. When the vessel arrived at 0100 on 26 June 1996 to a point some six miles to the southwest of al-Bakr Port, the U.S. Navy asked it not to leave that point until the morning. At 0600, U.S. frigate No. 39 approached the vessel. A boat, carrying 18 fully armed U.S. marines, left the frigate. The marines boarded the vessel. They then dispersed throughout all sections of the vessel and took a list containing the names of its crew before leaving at 0730.

In his letter, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations underlined Iraq's lawful right to demand compensation for the damage inflicted on the vessel as a result of this provocative act. He also demanded that the letter be considered a Security Council document.

Iraq: Turkish 'Aggressions' Against Iraq Protested to UN

*JN0608120696 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1805 GMT 5 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 5 Aug (INA)—Iraq denounced the aggressions which are carried out by the Turkish military forces in northern Iraq on the pretext of pursuing elements of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK).

In a letter Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, delivered to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali today, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that Turkish warplanes bombarded the Bumani (place name as transliterated) area and the Butch camp in northern Iraq on 10 July 1996, adding that seven citizens were wounded and 15 houses were destroyed in the bombardment.

In his letter, al-Sahhaf called for an immediate halt to these aggressions which constitute a serious and flagrant violation of the Republic of Iraq's sovereignty and territory in order to avoid the deterioration of the situation between the two neighboring countries and to spare Iraqi citizens any harm, something which conflicts with the relations of good neighborliness, the UN Charter, the international law, and the Iraqi-Turkish 1926 border agreement.

In his letter, the foreign minister noted that on several occasions, he warned Turkey against the continuation of circumstances which lead to prolonging the abnormal situation in northern Iraq, pointing out that the past five years experience, since 1991, has indisputably proved that the so-called Hammer Force's presence on Turkish territory on various pretexts was merely a cover for attacking Iraq and interfering in its internal affairs.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf stressed Iraq's right to demand compensation for the damage caused by these aggressions. He reiterated the call on the

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Turkish Government to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, to reconsider its policies toward the situation in northern Iraq, and to establish cooperation between the two neighbors in order to eliminate the causes of the continuation of this situation which poses a serious threat to their interests.

Concluding his letter, the foreign minister called on the United Nations to take action to stop threats to and aggression against Iraq. He requested that the letter be adopted as a UN Security Council document.

Iraq: PUK Pledges To Protect Iranian Kurdish Party Members

NC0508182696 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Aug 96

["Text" of Joint Statement Issued by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan on 4 August; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the attack by the Islamic Republic of Iran forces on the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan [DPIK] bases and the refugee Kurdish families from Iran near the city of Koi Sanjaq on 27 and 28 July 1996, the political bureaus of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the DPIK met between 1 and 4 August 1996 with the aim of reorganizing relations between the two parties and tackling the problems that arose between the two sides in the wake of the Iranian attack.

Following a series of discussions, agreement was reached according to which the DPIK will redraw its political action and struggle in a way commensurate with the conditions in Iraq's Kurdistan. On its part, the PUK will provide security and protection for the DPIK members and supporters in the areas under its administration in addition to guaranteeing the DPIK's political struggle.

The two sides also pledged to take practical steps to strengthen the spirit of their understanding and friendship and to deal with any problem that might arise through cordial dialogue.

[Signed] The PUK Political Bureau

The DPIK Political Bureau
4 August 1996

Iraq: Peshmerga Forces Engage Iraqi Force, Kill Four

NC0408182696 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi regime force has attacked Kurdish peshmerga positions on the Takiyah-Zardah road. Peshmerga forces from the 19th Brigade engaged the hostile force and forced it to retreat, leaving behind four dead, including a captain. The aggressive force also left behind three Kalashnikov rifles and a burnt-out vehicle.

Iraq: PUK Hands Over Iraqi Prisoners to Red Cross

NC0508181696 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Here are good tidings. The Voice of the People of Kurdistan, the voice of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, announces to the families and relatives of the military personnel guests of the PUK, who were taken prisoners in the spring of 1995 battles, that in accordance with the decision of Jalal Talabani, supreme commander of Kurdistan's Peshmerga, and in the presence of representatives of the International Red Cross Committee [IRCC] in Kurdistan, all these prisoners were handed over to the IRCC this morning. They are now on their way to their families and relatives safe and sound after being hosted by the PUK with all respect and pride for more than a year and a half.

Greetings to the families and relatives of the military personnel guest prisoners. Let the unity of the Iraqis and their just struggle to topple the dictatorship and establish peace and safety in Iraq forever be strengthened.

Israel: Netanyahu on Hizballah, Syrian Track, Rift With Levi

TA0608182896 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by political correspondent Dan Scemama in Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem on 6 August — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Scemama] Mr. Prime Minister, a soldier was killed and two wounded in south Lebanon today, and another two were injured yesterday. Hizballah is heating up the border. What can we do?

[Netanyahu] Hizballah is fighting us, and we will fight back. Let no one have any illusions that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers and the State of Israel will always serve as the punching bag for a bunch of terrorists. I had better not say more at this point, but I will say this: What I have said here will be expressed in the field.

[Scemama] You tried to solve the south Lebanon problem with your Lebanon First proposal. You sent it to the Syrians, and today they said they will not enter negotiations on Lebanon First. What now?

[Netanyahu] This was not the proposal I made to the Syrians. My message, delivered through the Americans, was completely different. My message was: We can resume the talks. I detailed the framework for the resumption. Now, we are awaiting their answer. I do not know what it will be. I know that we are waiting. In the framework of the talks, the Syrians will be able to bring up any issue they wish, and so will we. I will definitely raise the issue of stopping the bloodshed in Lebanon. This is because there are only two options: to head toward an escalation — which is not good for Syria or for us and not good for peace — or toward a solution. I spoke of Lebanon because I believe we are apparently in agreement on it: They want us to leave, and we want to leave provided that our security and our allies in south Lebanon are protected. This could be one of the issues on the negotiating table.

[Scemama] What do you want from David Levi?

[Netanyahu] I want Levi to continue to work with me. We have worked well together so far, and I believe we will be able to continue working together in the future as well. I have no doubts about this.

[Scemama] The feeling in the Foreign Ministry, as we heard in last night's meeting of the ministry's top executive, is that they are being neutralized by the prime minister. They claim there are 700 people, headed by a minister, who want to work.

[Netanyahu] Great! They have a lot to do. Listen, there used to be two ways of working which I dislike: One was that the prime minister kept the foreign minister out of the picture, and the recent method was that the foreign minister kept the prime minister out. I don't work according to either of these. Right from the start. I met with David Levi and told him: We will work together; everything we do we will do together in full coordination.

[Scemama] How are you doing that, if you decided to appoint Mr. Dani Nave, the cabinet secretary, and not a Foreign Ministry as head of the steering committee with the Palestinians. Levi considers this offensive.

[Netanyahu] I have great esteem for Dani Nave. I feel he is one of the most gifted civil servants we have. However, I have not yet decided or announced the name of the person I will appoint to this post. One thing is clear: The person is less important. We must understand that all Israeli prime ministers to date have been the guiding force regarding the key political issues on the national agenda. The only difference is that some of them kept their foreign ministers out. I do not mean to, never have, and never will work like that. I value working with Levi and have great personal esteem for him, and I very much want to work with him. I stress, however, that I intend to be in charge of the main thing for which I was elected by a direct vote to lead the country.

[Scemama] What of the army officers? Approximately two weeks ago, a senior political source told political reporters that IDF officers gave political advice, and now Uzi Landau has stated they are under the thumb of the previous government. Don't you feel that the IDF might be hurt too badly?

[Netanyahu] First of all, I do not accept this view. I believe that the only ones to blame are the members of the previous government who got the army involved in political moves by taking army officers and making them act like politicians vis-a-vis the political echelons on the other side. This was a mistake, even a serious one. I criticized it then, and I still consider it serious. This is why I told the top officers in the IDF and the other security branches: You are not involved in the political process. You may and must give us your evaluation and information. I believe they are doing this remarkably well. I fully appreciate their professional skills and their integrity when they present their stands. I do not think this is the problem. I sought to make a distinction between politics and the army, which is the right thing to do. I do not believe we have problems with the senior IDF echelons who accept this distinction as a

normal thing which has always existed in Israel, except during the term of the previous government.

[Scemama] Why did you have to hold a secret meeting with King Husayn in London?

[Netanyahu] Things are happening. I still cannot tell you what will the outcome will be. Those who said we will enter this office and paralyze the peace process and cause an explosion between the Arab world and Israel.... [pauses] I believe some said so....

[Scemama, interrupting] Are secret things happening on the Syrian track?

[Netanyahu] I told you specifically: We made a proposal to Syria, but I do not know at this time whether it will be accepted. We are working on all fronts.

[Scemama] Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Israel: PM Calls Mubarak Before al-Asad Visit, Denies Morocco Call

TA0608183496 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Dan Scemama studio report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister's Office staffers have said recently that Lebanon First is a very bad term which the Syrians fear because they were opposed to Gaza First at the time. This is why this term should not be used in political contacts, they said, adding that Syria should only be called to talks. The office is expecting a Syrian answer in the coming days.

The prime minister spoke to Egyptian President Mubarak this evening, in view of his anticipated meeting with al-Asad in Cairo tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, the prime minister told us that he did not try to arrange a meeting with the Moroccan king, nor did he try to phone him. He denies the reports. He added, however, that he will be in charge of navigating the process. It is my job, he said, to be in touch with President Mubarak and King Husayn, and I will do this always. The Foreign Ministry has different roles. [passage omitted]

Israel: Netanyahu Backs Out of Hebron Withdrawal 'To Repay 'Arafat'

TA0708100096 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Aug 96 pp 1, 19

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu backed out at the last moment from the Hebron withdrawal plan. The reason: It was his way

to repay 'Arafat for the Palestinian violations of the agreement on Jerusalem.

This week Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay was supposed to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and to present the plan to him. The plan, which contained slight modifications of the Hebron withdrawal agreement the previous government signed with 'Arafat, was drafted in a series of consultations held in Netanyahu's "mini-kitchen." The latter consisted of Ministers Mordekhay, Levi, Sharon, Meridor, and Ne'eman. The ministers agreed that when announcing the plan, Mordekhay would make a statement on behalf of Israel to the effect that should Palestinian terror again strike in Hebron, Israel would use its right to engage in "hot pursuit" inside Arab Hebron.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 7 August reports that "Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay will meet with Yasir 'Arafat soon. He will tour Hebron next week to prepare his proposals for implementing the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, the defense minister's media adviser said in an interview to Al-AYYAM, the Palestinian Authority's newspaper. The adviser also reported that the defense establishment will soon discuss granting permits to another 5,000 Palestinians to work in Israel."]

Although the ministers were aware of the Palestinian violations in Jerusalem at the time of the consultations, they decided to approve the plan. The plan could have been presented in July, but the defense minister asked for more time in order to mollify the settlers living in the city. It was at that point that the prime minister changed his mind.

During his visit to Jordan two days ago Netanyahu said that talks on Hebron would be launched "in a few weeks." Ministers who have been critical of Netanyahu's performance cited the case of Hebron as an example of his inconsistency. [passage omitted]

Israel: IDF Said Proceeding With Hebron Redeployment Preparations

TA0708100696 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command has already launched concrete preparations for the redeployment in Hebron in accordance with the original Taba agreement, senior defense establishment officials have revealed. In one of the moves, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] placed other border markers on the line dividing the IDF-controlled area from that controlled by the

Palestinian Police as specified in the original redeployment plan drafted in Taba. Such markers have been placed at the approaches of all the Arab cities in Judaea and Samaria before they were handed over to the Palestinian Authority. Their placement is a de facto border demarcation.

Army elements have revealed that the Central Command has made concrete plans for troop deployment in Hebron, and they are all based on the original plan finalized in Taba. Moreover, senior Central Command officers have recently held discussions with Palestinian officers on the manner of the IDF deployment and on problems that may arise when implementation begins. This dialogue, too, was held on the basis of the original Taba plan.

Our correspondent has further learned that the IDF has taken no substantial steps against Jibril al-Rujub's armed troops openly operating in Hebron, although the IDF does act against similar al-Rujub forces in areas C elsewhere in Judaea and Samaria. Senior officers admitted that although they have concrete knowledge about the activities of al-Rujub's men in Hebron, they have not done anything to prevent them.

A senior Central Command official said that the preparations are following the original plan because so far the IDF has not received any government instructions concerning an alternative plan.

Israel: Planned Construction in West Bank Settlements Detailed

TA0708102096 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 7 Aug 96 p 4

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The population of some 3,000 empty apartments in Judaea and Samaria, which was put on ice by the previous government and revived by the present one, is being delayed due to a disagreement between the Finance and the Construction and Housing Ministries.

Although the government granted a permit to immediately inhabit the apartments, the process is not expected to begin before Rosh Hashanah [in September]. The Finance Ministry insists on selling the apartments, while the Construction and Housing Ministry prefers to rent them out to needy families at subsidized prices, keeping them as state property. [passage omitted]

It has been learned meanwhile that petitions for construction permits for thousands of apartments in Judaea and Samaria settlements have been submitted or are in various stages of transfer to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay's bureau. The petitions include detailed con-

tour plans, some of which have already passed various stages of approval but were put on ice by the previous government.

The plans include the construction of 2,000 apartments and 3,000 hotel rooms in Ma'ale Adumim; the expansion of Alfey Menashe by 2,500 housing units; the construction of some 3,000 housing units in Alon Shvut, Neve Daniyel, Teqo'a, Metzad, Migdal 'Oz, Ma'ale 'Amos, Rosh Tzurim, Karmey Tzur, and Har Gilo — all in the 'Etzyon Bloc; and the construction of some 6,000 apartments in the Shomron regional council settlements and of several hundred apartments in the Binyamin District.

Israel: Levi Said 'Barely Functioning' as Foreign Minister

TA0708094996 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Aug 96 pp 1, 8

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] David Levi is barely functioning in his position as foreign minister, a variety of sources say. He is avoiding diplomatic meetings and instead generally cloisters himself with a party crony during the few hours a day that he decides to visit his office.

It remains unclear if Levi is acting this way because he feels he is being circumvented with regard to the peace process, or whether the problem is larger. While Levi can contend that he is being ignored on this major issue and therefore has little to do, the foreign minister is supposed to be involved in other matters as well. After all, Israel has ties with some 160 countries and maintains links with a variety of international organizations and multilateral forums.

After being in the job for almost two months, Levi has yet to appoint a permanent director-general or a personal staff, including a diplomatic adviser. Levi has not yet resolved the clash between Eytan Bentzur, an experienced professional diplomat who has been named acting director-general, and his own political aide, Ya'akov Bardugo, who covets the title.

With a virtual empty daily schedule, sources say Levi often spends the hours he is in his office huddling with Bardugo, who ran for Knesset but failed to win a seat.

One day, virtually the only meetings listed on Levi's schedule were a session with a Jewish millionaire from Australia who gave money to the Likud, and a photo session with the Government Press Office.

Consultations on substantive issues are rarely held, sources say. Foreign Ministry deputy director-generals in charge of the various regions are being forced to

make decisions on their own; alternately, they must make excuses to foreign governments as to why they cannot answer questions — the reasons being that they rarely have direct access to their own minister.

Furthermore, Levi turned down a meeting this week with a visiting US official, who foreign ministers always see. [passage omitted]

Israel: Levi Reportedly Weighs Resignation by 'End of the Week'

TA0608175296 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Studio talk between moderator Mickey Haimovich, political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, and political editor Gadi Sukenik — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Haimovich] We have heard that Netanyahu said he will be the one to conduct the negotiations with the Palestinians. What does this statement mean with reference to the crisis with the foreign minister?

[Rosen] The prime minister is not upset about the crisis, which he sees as contrived, and he is not impressed by David Levi's concern for Foreign Ministry staffers. In his opinion, all Levi wants is to conduct the negotiations with the Palestinians. This is indeed the foreign minister's uncompromising demand but, as we have heard, the prime minister has rejected it in no uncertain terms, saying: I will conduct the negotiations with the Palestinians. In view of this, we heard hints from people close to Levi over the past hour saying he may resign in the near future.

[Haimovich] Our political editor Gadi Sukenik is in our Tel Aviv studio with news of an old-new government front.

[Sukenik] Netanyahu and Levi are on a collision course, and Levi is considering handing in his resignation by the end of the week if the situation does not change. Nevertheless, I expect Levi and Netanyahu will meet, discuss the situation, and settle their differences, although hard feelings may persist.

Meanwhile, Sharon and Levi had a long telephone conversation today and agreed that the comradeship alliance between the two, which was forged when Levi helped Sharon join the cabinet during the period when Netanyahu could not make up his mind on the matter, lives on, with Sharon backing Levi in every sense.

Israel: Levi Associate—Dispute With Netanyahu 'Inherited Problem'

TA0608162796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Knesset Member [MK] Mikha'el Kleiner, a senior member of Foreign Minister David Levi's Gesher movement, maintains that the differences between the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office stem from the issue of how to pursue the peace process with Jordan. He says it's an inherited problem between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry. Reporter David Ze'ev asked MK Kleiner if Levi and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu are talking to each other these days.

[Begin recording] [Kleiner] These days in general — yes, and I hope the next days also, yes.

[Ze'ev] So what is all the talk about there being some sort of crisis between the two people? Are they in touch? Are they pursuing the peace process together?

[Kleiner] In general, the answer is yes. There is some slight misunderstanding which results from the last government and the interdepartmental dispute between the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry. It started, I guess, when Prime Minister Rabin was alive, with Peres, and later on it continued. In principle, this is not the way to solve this misunderstanding by not inviting the Foreign Ministry to participate in such an important visit [to Jordan], and I believe this must be corrected. Foreign Minister Levi will insist that such disregarding of the ministry will not happen again. [passage omitted]

[Ze'ev] Beyond the problem of Jordan that you've now mentioned, is there either a personality conflict which still exists between the two men or actual differences on how to pursue the peace process?

[Kleiner] I don't think it goes so far. I believe there was good understanding and quite a fair consultation between Levi and Bibi, and everyone was informing each other on steps concerning the foreign relations of the State of Israel. I hope this incident will not cloud the future of this relationship, because for the sake of Israel and the peace process, it's important that we do one foreign policy and not two foreign policies.

[Ze'ev] When David Levi goes into a meeting with, let's say, Yasir 'Arafat, does he have the ability, the clout to make proposals, to talk to someone like 'Arafat and other people, state leaders, and know that the prime minister will back him up?

[Kleiner] Undoubtedly, undoubtedly. As I said, this tactical misunderstanding or disturbance in the relations

will not affect, I hope, the strategic understanding between Levi and Netanyahu. The prime minister consults the foreign minister on any political issue. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry officials have sharply criticized the Prime Minister's Office, saying it is undermining its own policies by excluding the ministry from its diplomatic activities. One example raised during an internal discussion was the effort by the prime minister's diplomatic adviser, Dore Gold, to coordinate a meeting between Prime Minister Netanyahu and King Hassan of Morocco. Officials at the Foreign Ministry only found out about the contacts via the U.S. ambassador in Rabat. Ministry officials believe Morocco is not about to agree to such a meeting because contacts are already under way to coordinate a visit to Rabat by Foreign Minister David Levi.

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 6 August adds: "The Prime Minister's Office has stressed that Mr. Netanyahu does not intend to give up his control over the steering committee in the negotiations with the Palestinians, while the foreign minister is demanding, among other things, to be involved in this committee. The foreign minister's associates say that, in fact, Mr. Levi insists on determining Israel's foreign policy and on not being deprived of his ability to do so."]

Israel: Egypt Mediates Solution to 'Abd-al-Qadir Jerusalem Office

TA0608184396 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] There seems to be a solution to the affair around the office that Palestinian Authority [PA] council member Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir opened in his house in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen has learned that, according to a proposal made to him, 'Abd-al-Qadir will state in writing that his office is not related to his membership in the PA council. The offer was made today during a secret meeting held at a Jerusalem hotel between 'Ami Gluska, an adviser to the internal security minister, and 'Abd-al-Qadir. Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni mediated this meeting.

Israel: Northern Commander on Hizballah, 'Solution'

TA0608152296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1405 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Report by Ilan Ro'e]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Seventeen IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed in south Lebanon and 69 injured in hundreds of incidents in the security zone this year. Today, the IDF paid a heavy price, losing another soldier. [passage omitted]

Over the past few days, the terrorists have scored some good successes, killing one IDF soldier, wounding four, and kidnapping an SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier. This boosts Hizballah's morale and invigorates its attempts to win the sympathy of the local population. Furthermore, it should be remembered that the events are taking place against the backdrop of the anticipated meeting of the committee that will monitor the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

After a long period in which the terrorists tried to strike at the IDF and SLA by planting bombs and through direct confrontations, they have recently resorted to operations that are less dangerous for them but more effective. Firing mortar shells from a distance, as they have in recent days, does not require them to directly engage in face-to-face contact with the IDF, which clearly has the advantage in this area. Furthermore, their operations are perpetrated by small, invisible squads. It also seems that IDF artillery fire does not deter them because it causes the terrorists relatively few losses. 'Amiram Levin, head of the Northern Command, told us this afternoon: We have a solution.

[Begin Levin recording] The solutions are complex. This is war. Over the past few weeks, Hizballah has been under pressure. It made many attempts to carry out terror attacks. In the last five clashes, it sustained more than 10 fatalities and many casualties. The Hizballah squads left their wounded and dead behind and fled the scene. It is now trying again to fire from a distance. We will have to address this problem as well. [end recording]

According to an initial debriefing, Gen. Levin said, the IDF soldiers acted appropriately. From their point of view, the terrorists are not violating the Grapes of Wrath understandings, but the frightening precision of their fire requires the top Northern Command brass to find a solution to this problem as well.

Israel: Gen. Levin on 'Unprecedented' Iran Involvement in Lebanon

TA0608184096 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Video report by military correspondent Roni Daniyel]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Major General 'Amiram Levin, head of the Northern Command, spoke at today's press briefing of unprecedented Iranian involvement in operations waged against the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in south Lebanon. He said that a mere 10 km from Qiryat Shemona, Iranian advisers physically accompany Hizballah operations, study them, draw conclusions, and then train the Hizballah men on the basis of conclusions drawn from each and every event. Furthermore, explosive charges recently found in the area are Iranian. They were made in Iran and shipped to south Lebanon, where they are used in action. This involvement is truly unprecedented.

The Northern Command chief made additional remarks, which may imply that Hizballah now possesses new military gear:

[Begin Levin recording] Hizballah constantly receives weapons and money from Iran through Syria, which is a consenting primary channel which even supervises the works. Hizballah is constantly trying to obtain more sophisticated and efficient weapons, although I naturally cannot elaborate on that. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Israel TV Channel 1 in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 6 August carries a similar report by Moti 'Eden in which Gen. Levin, in recorded passages, adds that the Syrians are "fully aware of the situation." He says that "the Syrians have always been involved, and so they continue to be." Asked about the link between the events and the political process, Levin says: "Clearly, there is a link. All the elements in Lebanon constantly take the situation in the political process, the elections to the Lebanese Parliament, and future moves by Israel, Iran, Syria, and the United States into account."]

Israel: IDF Sources—Hizballah Received New Weapons Systems

TA0708115996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Aug 96 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah recently received a consignment of katyusha rockets with a 40-km range. The organization has not yet put these rockets into operation, but senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers believe it will deploy them if the conflict with Israel

escalates. A senior army source noted that the terrorists are currently using three types of katyushas.

- 122 mm diameter katyushas with a 20.4 km range.
- 122 mm diameter katyushas with an 11 km range.
- 107 mm diameter katyushas with a 8.5 km range.

During Operation Grapes of Wrath in April, the terrorists launched mainly 122 mm katyushas. One 107 mm katyusha with a phosphorus warhead and a 7.9 km range was launched.

According to Northern Command analysts, Hizballah recently received consignments of sophisticated war materiel, such as night vision equipment and protective measures, which are currently being put into use. They also said the organization is "flooding" south Lebanese villages with war materiel to assure itself emergency supplies in another confrontation without the need for external provisions. The Northern Command notes that most of the arms consignments are coming from Iran via Syria.

The Northern Command's Major General 'Amiram Levin confirms that Hizballah is putting into use sophisticated arms systems against the IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Levin refused to name the different types of weapons, but referring to claims made by the Hizballah leader, he stressed: "We should acknowledge Hizballah's capabilities."

Israel: Government Acting To Foil Arab Antinormalization Front

TA0708111896 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 7 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by ITIM correspondent Uri Qatzir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has been making attempts in recent days to foil the formation of an Arab front aimed at acting jointly to halt the normalization of Arab countries' relations with Israel. The attempts were stepped up following Arab decisions made in the wake of contacts among various Arab world elements. In recent days the axis of these contacts was the Cairo-Damascus line. Egypt has long toyed with the idea that by obstructing the Israeli-Arab normalization it would gain an extra edge in its inveterate conflict with Israel. The Egyptian theory contends that a prolonged process of denormalization will induce any Jerusalem government to make substantial concessions.

Various Israeli elements, including the prime minister himself and political adviser Dr. Dore Gold, have attempted to act on the matter in recent days. Netanyahu and Gold discussed it with senior Jordanian Administra-

tion members, including King Husayn, and urged him to act to foil the emerging front.

Jerusalem became especially concerned after the failure of several attempts to forge a link and a dialogue with the administration of Morocco, which is considered relatively moderate. The Moroccans refused to arrange visits to Rabat by the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister, and even refused to arrange a telephone conversation between Netanyahu and King Hassan. This stringency on the part of an administration previously known to be especially close to the Israeli Government brought many Israeli officials to the conclusion that the situation required immediate action.

In anticipation of the Syrian president's visit to Cairo, Netanyahu telephoned Husni Mubarak last night and

the two men discussed the issue. Netanyahu reiterated his commitment to the peace process and announced that he is taking substantial steps to promote the negotiations with the Palestinians and the Syrians. He briefed Mubarak on his visit to Jordan and on the economic issues discussed during the visit.

ITIM has learned that Mubarak is interested in maintaining ongoing contacts with Netanyahu. It is generally believed in Jerusalem that Egypt wishes to remain the primary channel of communication between the Arabs and Israel.

Jordan: King Husayn, 'Arafat To Hold Talks in al-'Aqabah 7 Aug

JN0608201996 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn will hold talks with His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority. 'Arafat will arrive in al-'Aqabah on 7 August on a working visit to Jordan. The talks between His Majesty King Husayn and President 'Arafat will deal with the latest developments in the peace process and issues of common interest.

Jordan: Minister Says King To Visit Saudi Arabia 'Next Week'

JN0608174696 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn will visit sisterly Saudi Arabia next week. Announcing this after a cabinet meeting this evening, Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said that the visit is part of cooperation and consultations on the fraternal bilateral relations and inter-Arab relations. Both sides are endeavoring to support these relations, which will bolster the march of Arab solidarity and the peace process. They will also discuss the latest developments.

Al-Mu'ashshir added that the Israeli prime minister promised to overcome obstacles that prevent the export of Jordanian goods to the West Bank and Israel.

Jordan: French 'Satisfaction' With King's Peace Efforts Reported

JN0608174896 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] French officials and media have expressed satisfaction with the reconciliatory stance of Jordan to bridge differences between the viewpoints of the parties involved in the Middle East peace process. They paid tribute to his majesty the king's leading role in enhancing Arab solidarity for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Paris will adopt the same stance and contact the Israeli premier in order to shoulder his historic responsibilities. The French ministry will also tell him that the peace process launched in the region is irreversible and could not be stopped. He therefore must continue moves to reach regional peace based on the principle of exchanging occupied land for peace.

In this regard LE FIGARO newspaper said his majesty succeeded during talks yesterday with Mr. Netanyahu

in convincing the Israeli premier that negotiations with Syria over the Golan Heights is necessary to forge a comprehensive peace in the area.

Jordan: 'Positive Results' Seen From Netanyahu Visit

JN0608154996 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Aug 96 p 24

[Editorial: "The Positive Results of Netanyahu's Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the talks His Majesty King Husayn held with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, which were reflected in the news conference they held yesterday, affirm the soundness of the Jordanian stand — a stand that calls for exploring matters seriously and officially and not relying on media reports before making a final statement on the trends of the new Israeli Government. Furthermore, the Jordanian stand calls for giving this government a chance to officially and fully review the current situation, what has been accomplished, and what top obligations need to be achieved in the future.

It is clear that the Israeli Government did not waste time. After he held talks in Cairo and Washington, listened to Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabari, and held expanded talks with King Husayn and Crown Prince Hasan yesterday, the Israeli prime minister made statements related to the peace process, and particularly his country's relations with Jordan. These statements expressed a perception that we do not believe conflicts with his previous pronouncements, but it certainly is different in terms of expressing his long-term objectives and the discourse he used to express these objectives.

If Israel's stand, as we ought to see it, is seeking to approximate itself to the Jordanian stand, then our stand remains constant in terms of relentlessly seeking to achieve a comprehensive and just peace that is acceptable to future generations and responds to their needs. Moreover, we are always ready to play the role necessary to activate the peace process. This stand is committed to the Arab stand announced at the Cairo summit, which seeks to resume the peace process based on the terms of reference of the Madrid conference and the land-for-peace principle.

King Husayn announced his optimism, confidence, and reassurance that steps taken by the Israeli prime minister will, in the end, lead to the peace they seek. It is certain that the king's announcement was based on what he heard from Netanyahu, who needed to hear Jordan's reiteration of its full support for the Palestinian Authority, that it we will not bypass the Palestinians or think about taking their place, and that we support the

resumption of negotiations on the Palestinian track as soon as possible. This is provided that Israel announces its consent and its need to reorganize its cards so that the talks would be positive and improvable.

We are satisfied with the results of Netanyahu's visit and we believe that what was announced needs tangible practical steps, the results of which are felt by the Jordanian citizen, in particular, through an effective implementation of what the two sides have agreed on. This is that the Jordanian-Israeli treaty will be just like Jordan wants it to be — a model for other parties to emulate. We are not asking for this just to serve ourselves and the Israelis, but also to serve the idea of peace, which we hope will be comprehensive and just.

**Jordan: Israel Urged To Respond to Arabs'
'Genuine' Wish for Peace**

JN0608114696 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Aug 96 p 6

[Editorial: "Peace Process Gets a Push"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Skeptics who cast doubt on the prospects of achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East should have a fresh look at the developments of the past three days. His Majesty King Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad decided during their talks Saturday to set up a joint committee to discuss water rights. A similar body was agreed between King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday. Mr. Netanyahu rightly said that water, or the lack of it, was a problem for countries of the region. Notwithstanding the fact that some consume more than the others, the fact that the countries of the region are willing to talk about water rights and water sharing is a far cry from the 1960s, when water, more available then than now, was one of the reasons that led to the 1967 war.

Despite the rhetoric on both sides, there is a feeling that both Arabs and Israelis are determined to pursue the goal of peace.

Jordan believes it has a dual role in the quest for peace. On the one hand, the Kingdom would like its peace with Israel to mature to an extent that would convince Israelis that warm and friendly relations with the Arabs are possible and convince other Arab countries that peace with Israel would restore to them all territorial and other rights. On this front, Jordan has pushed its peace treaty with Israel to the most possible limits of open borders, full diplomatic ties and full cooperation in all fields. Many Jordanians, though, believe Israel has not reciprocated in kind. Trade between the two countries and between Jordan and Palestinian territories has not

kicked off despite repeated Jordanian pleas because of obstacles placed by the Jewish state.

On the other hand, Jordan would want, as Minister of Information Marwan al-Mu'ashshir put it in a recent interview, to use its good offices with the Palestinians, Syrians, Lebanese and Israelis to push the peace process ahead. The result of this has been apparent during the Israeli prime minister's talks with Jordanian leaders yesterday during which King Husayn conveyed to Mr. Netanyahu President al-Asad's genuine interest in resuming negotiations with Israel. The Israeli leader was quick to respond that his country would "readily take up" the Syrian desire to resume negotiations.

We think that it is up to Israel, the occupying power in the West Bank, Gaza, South Lebanon and the Golan to respond to the Arabs' genuine desire for peace and to resume peace talks on all tracks as soon as possible.

**Jordan: Prime Minister Explains Government
Policy on Bread Subsidy**

JN0408123196 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 4 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that government implementation of the national economic and social adjustment program since 1989 has produced a real growth in the gross national product by nearly seven percent for this year only, and the reduction of the deficit in the budget to some more than four percent, compared to the deficit of 24 percent in 1989. He said the success of the program has also helped Jordan to rebuild its foreign currency reserves and maintain stability in exchange rate of the dinar. It has also checked inflation to some four percent this year, compared to 26 percent in 1989, and reduced the rate of foreign debt to less than 100 percent of the GDP, compared to 200 percent in 1989.

The prime minister was speaking at a session held by the House of Representatives today under Speaker Sa'd Hayil al-Sunur in the presence of deputies and cabinet ministers. The session was devoted to discussion of reallocation of wheat subsidies so that only the citizens who deserve the subsidy would be entitled to it. Prime Minister al-Kabariti said that ever since the government adopted a national adjustment program, it has been eager to maintain stability in the general level of prices so as to maintain the standards of living at acceptable levels. The government has done so by subsidizing basic commodities, despite the fact their international prices on world markets have risen.

The prime minister explained that the enormous rise in these international prices and the accompanying increase in the quantities consumed have in turn produced

an increase in the amount of subsidy, which reached some 180 million dinars this year, with a total deficit of 142 million dinars. He noted that the amount of subsidy allocated in the general budget this year totalled 38 million dinars only. Mr. al-Kabariti said that the government decided to change the form of subsidy from indirect to direct cash subsidy to ensure that only those who deserve the subsidy are benefiting from it and to stop misusing it, without burdening our citizens with any additional financial burdens.

Jordan: House Sets Up Committee To Discuss Wheat Prices

JN0508201896 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 5 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The House of Representatives set up a committee to reexamine, along with the government, its current policies on bread subsidies. The decision followed a heated two-day debate on the controversial issue. Fifty-one deputies have expressed their views on the subject. Those against the measures were very vocal, but all deputies, whether for or against, agreed that the Jordanian citizen should not have to suffer as a result of economic restructuring.

Deputies against the flotation of wheat prices suggested that the government decrease its own spending, sell off unnecessary land and property, and increase taxes on luxury items.

They cited many examples as an alternative to the price hike on a basic commodity like wheat.

Several deputies complained that the government's program to modify the wheat subsidies was in favor of civic servants, but unjust to all other citizens.

Those in favor of the government's policies called for drawing up national plans and strategies to encourage and upgrade local wheat production.

Some said this government should not be held responsible or be blamed for a necessary decision long overdue. They called on citizens to shoulder their responsibility with the government and work to help close the gap in the budget deficit.

Following the debate and before the House set up the committee, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti presented the government's reply to the MP's (members of parliament) remarks. Al-Kabariti said his government aimed to address structural fluctuation in the subsidy policies. He said that included waste, misuse of the commodity, direct and indirect smuggling, as well as reducing unnecessary spending.

The prime minister said MP's should not doubt the government's credibility and its intention to justly execute the subsidy mechanism and deliver it to those who truly deserve it. He said his government has established a special system for this purpose that will be endorsed by a royal decree. Moreover, the prime minister explained that all public apparatuses have worked out all the procedures that seem suitable to implement the compensation mechanism. He said these procedures would not cause the citizens any extra burden; neither would they cost the national economy extra expenses.

7 August 1996

Lebanon: Al-Hirawi Receives 'Urgent' Message From Mubarak*NC0608163196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 6 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Mahir, Egyptian charge d'affaires in Lebanon, today conveyed an urgent verbal message to President Elias al-Hirawi from his Egyptian counterpart President Hosni Mubarak. The message deals with the current situation in the region and the peace process, the Egyptian diplomat said after meeting President al-Hirawi.

Lebanon: Birri Comments on 'Lebanon First,' Meetings in Damascus*NC0708093096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 7 August 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The three leaders held a second meeting last night in which they discussed the Israeli escalation in the south and the ongoing preparations for the meeting of the Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group [ILMG] on Thursday, 8 August, in al-Naqurah. The leaders' second meeting was a continuation of the first meeting in the morning. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri said after the second meeting:

[Begin recording] [Birri] We held a morning session with their excellencies the president and the prime minister. We also met in the evening. We discussed my visit to Syria, during which I had the honor to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the People's Assembly speaker. Discussions focused primarily on the situation in the region, before President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Cairo. We also spoke about the ILMG issue, the meeting that will take place at 1100 [0800 GMT] on Thursday in al-Naqurah, the composition of the Syrian and Lebanese ILMG delegations, and the Lebanese internal situation.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are there any new developments regarding the Lebanon First proposal?

[Birri] My stand on this matter is clear. I explained to the Syrian leadership that this is a Lebanese matter. Therefore, Israel cannot negotiate with Syria on a subject that concerns Lebanon first. The second point was that this issue is not open for discussion, because the security arrangements contradict and nullify Resolution 425. This is the stand I voiced in my first reaction to it. We did not benefit so much from the Gaza First agreement that we would discuss Lebanon First. This Lebanon First proposal negates Resolution 425 and attempts to sidestep Lebanon. Lebanon is an independent state with its separate identity and sovereignty. This is a purely Lebanese issue and allow me to say that Syria

cannot interfere directly in this matter even if it chooses to or is allowed to.

[Correspondent] Have you resolved the matter of the alliance [between Amal and Hizballah] in the south?

[Birri] This issue is still under discussion. A while ago a meeting took place between us and the brothers in the Hizballah leadership with the participation of the Syrian brothers. The issue is still [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Was the meeting this evening dedicated to security matters or did it also address election matters?

[Birri] Why should we be absent from [word indistinct]? Of course we did discuss the election, but the basic issue was the south. [end recording]

Lebanon: French Monitoring Group Delegates Meet al-Hariri*NC0708083196 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 7 August 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has met the French representatives of the Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group [ILMG.] Ambassador Jean-Michel Gausso and General Francois le Merse de Pas. After the meeting Gausso said that France will do its utmost to play a positive and effective role in the ILMG. He added that the goals of the ILMG are specified by the April understanding.

He went on to say: I believe that one must not dwell on the defining this group as either a political or a military body. The goal of the French delegation is to monitor the proper implementation of the 26 April understanding and the agreements on it. Gausso said: We hope that there will be no escalation of security problems in south Lebanon and that there will be as little violence as possible. We fervently hope that the presence of this Group will discourage acts of violence that otherwise might occur. Gausso said: If any acts of violence do take place, the Group will perform its job by going to the scene of the incident, investigating, trying to file a report, and determining who is responsible. He pointed out that he will reside in Nicosia and visit the south regularly.

REUTERS cited French Foreign Ministry Spokesman (Yves de Turreau) as saying today that the ILMG will meet for the first time on Thursday, 8 August in al-Naqurah.

Lebanon: IDF Soldier Killed, 2 Wounded in Security Zone

*TA0608144396 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1425 GMT 6 Aug 96*

[Report by military correspondent Avi Lifshitz — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, 20-year-old Staff Sergeant Tahhawhu Aslam from Kafr Kama in the Lower Galilee, was killed in a gunfire incident in south Lebanon this morning. Two IDF soldiers were slightly injured in the incident which occurred in the western sector of the security zone. The fallen soldier's family has been notified.

According to Lebanese reports, mortars and antitank rockets were fired at a position in the area of Bra'shit in the western sector of the security zone between 0930 [0630 GMT] and 1000 this morning. One IDF soldier was killed and two wounded in the incident. The IDF returned the fire, and the wounded men were taken to the Nahariyya hospital.

Hizballah has claimed responsibility for the incident, announcing that its fighters fired the mortars that killed one soldier and injured two others.

Syria: Al-Shar' Briefs Cabinet on Political Developments

JN0608162196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers met at 1100 [0800 GMT] today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi presided over the meeting.

The Council of Ministers discussed developments in the Arab and international arenas. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' presented a comprehensive and detailed review of these developments and the outcome of the meetings and visits that were held to implement the resolutions of the Arab summit, particularly those related to enhancing Arab solidarity.

The foreign minister said the Israeli Government still rejects a peace process based on with the land-for-peace formula and the resolutions of international legitimacy. He added: If Israel is serious about reviving the peace process, then it must emphasize its obligations and respect its commitments, without any evasion.

The foreign minister emphasized the strength of Syrian-Lebanese coordination in all fields, particularly the peace process, on the basis of the common destiny of the two brotherly states and the fact that the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon constitute one front in any considerations related to the region's security and stability. [passage omitted]

Syria: Chief of Staff Says Path of Tension 'Detrimental' to Israel

JN0608194696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The latest class of the al-Asad Military Engineering Academy graduated today under the patronage of President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces. Representing the president was General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces. The ceremony was attended by Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, the deputy chief of staff; the Ba'th party secretaries from Aleppo and Aleppo University; the governor of Aleppo; a large number of General Command and Army formation officers; the heads of the military colleges and schools; and a large number of fraternal senior Lebanese Army officers. [passage omitted]

Amid cheers and shouts proclaiming long life for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, Hafiz al-Asad, Gen. al-Shihabi made a speech in which he conveyed the president's congratulations and good wishes to the graduates. He said: It is a great honor and a source of pride for me to represent President

Hafiz al-Asad at this graduation ceremony for a class from al-Asad Military Engineering Academy. I am also pleased to convey greetings from the leader of our triumphant march and his good wishes for your success and progress. [passage omitted]

Al-Shihabi commented on the Middle East process in his speech. He said: Syria has sincerely and truthfully sought a just and comprehensive peace that will end the chapter of aggression, end occupation, and restore rights to their owners. It would be harboring illusions to think that this policy means that it is possible for us to concede a single grain of our national soil, accept compromises over our firm rights, or allow our people's dignity to be tarnished in any way and for hundreds of years to come.

Al-Shihabi added: The new Israeli leaders' allegations that security comes before peace is an obvious pretext aimed at avoiding the real requirements of peace. These allegations imply devious and hostile intentions and expansionist regional ambitions.

The representative of the commander in chief said: We tell the Israeli rulers that returning to the path of escalation, tension, and aggression will not only harm others, but will be detrimental — perhaps extremely detrimental — to Israel itself and will not bring a moment of peace, security, stability, or tranquility to the Israelis. We in Syria will not go back on the path of just and comprehensive peace based on the international legitimate resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Those who go back on this path will bear the responsibility for this retreat and all the consequences that result.

Al-Shihabi told the graduates: Officer graduates, the days that you have spent at this great military and scientific establishment have been enough to enhance your knowledge, making it deeper, riper, and more in harmony with modern military technology and making you more capable of performing your noble tasks. [passage omitted]

Syria: Press Analyzes Netanyahu's 'Maneuvering,' Peace Stands

JN0708093796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 7 Aug 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Resumption of Talks Hinges on Israel's Commitment to the Bases of Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Through President al-Asad and other officials, Syria expressed its concern about the peace process and made

efforts to make it succeed. However, Syria rejects negotiations for the sake of negotiations. In light of this, Israel should basically clarify its stand and show clear commitment to the bases of the peace process so that the road to the resumption of talks becomes passable.

TISHRIN adds: Netanyahu's maneuvering since he assumed power created an atmosphere of distrust. He went to Washington to ask the U.S. Administration and instigate the Congress to impose sanctions on Syria. This is despite the fact that Syria is the major partner in the peace process, and that there will be no peace or stability in the Middle East without its effective participation. In the presence of President Clinton, Netanyahu refused to show commitment to the land-for-peace principle. He said that he has his own interpretation of this principle. He then openly rejected withdrawal from the Golan, and later came up with the Lebanon first proposal in order to drive a wedge between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks and to deal with Lebanon and Syria separately.

TISHRIN points out: He who reviews the Israeli officials' statements will easily discover that the Lebanon first dictum does not at all mean the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and withdrawal from Lebanon. However, what Netanyahu wants is a phased settlement connected with a peace agreement and security arrangements. He wants to disarm the resistance, test the Lebanese Government, and isolate Lebanon from Syria and the Arabs. Lebanon has rejected this on both the popular and official levels. President al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus, his talks with President al-Asad, and their emphasis on joint cooperation and coordination and unity of action, constitute a direct reply to this deceptive dictum.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Observers have no choice but to ask: Why Lebanon first and not Syria and Lebanon, taking into consideration that the Golan and southern Lebanon constitute one front and the Syrian and Lebanese tracks are inseparable.

In its commentary today under the headline "The Losing Cards," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The cards of Binyamin Netanyahu who assumed power armed with his known no's are void of essence. These cards embody the policy of maneuvering and playing with words, something which proves the Likud government's objective of renouncing the peace process.

AL-BA'TH points out: From the very beginning, and since his first weeks in office, Netanyahu has continued his hardline policy. Thus, he fell into the trap of international isolation. His policy reached a dead end as a result of clashing with the legitimacy of the UN resolutions and the just and comprehensive peace aspired by the world.

AL-BA'TH adds: In an attempt to find a way out of this impasse, Netanyahu began to search for solutions. He imagined that these solutions lie in using false proposals. He called for the resumption of the negotiations without preconditions, and yet he comes up with the Lebanon first proposal. He also expressed his readiness to hold negotiations with Syria, considering this as a relinquishment of his intransigent stands.

AL-BA'TH says: Since Netanyahu began his political maneuvering, Syria was aware of the dimensions of this exposed policy. This is because it is certain that any ideas outside the framework of the Madrid formula and its bases are wicked and rejected ideas, and responding to them will lead to a labyrinth.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: What is required from Netanyahu is not only to accept the resumption of negotiations, but to announce his abidance by the terms of these negotiations enshrined in the Madrid formula. He should relinquish ideas which have no essence. The peace process has returned to a stage of deep slumber. Hopes of reviving it are still very weak, and will continue to be so as long as the Likud Government adheres to occupation and settlements and refuses to abide by the principles of the peace process.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: President Calls on Taliban To Accept Peace

LD0608144396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Saying that fighting is no solution to the problem in his country, the Afghan President, Borhanoddin Rabbani, has asked the Taliban group to accept peace with the government.

According to our correspondent's report from Kabul, during an interview on Monday [5 Aug] the Afghan president asked the group to decide against continuing the hostility and fighting and instead present sensible demands in political meetings where they would get a positive response from the government. The Afghan president reiterated that he was prepared to visit opposing groups' bases in order to strengthen the peace axis through talks with them on the restoration of peace and security and a solution to their differences.

Describing foreign interference as the cause of the continued tension in Afghanistan, Rabbani said he had asked Norbert Holl, the new UN representative, to take practical action for the cessation of foreign interference and to support intra-Afghan dialogue.

Afghanistan: Government Ready To Help Pakistan Reopen Embassy in Kabul

LD0608144496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1230 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The government of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, is ready to provide the necessary facilities for Pakistan to reopen its embassy in Kabul.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Abdorrahim Ghafurzai said on Monday [5 August] that the incident when the Pakistani embassy in Kabul was set on fire last Sonbola [starting 23 August] was a sad one which had damaged bilateral relations. He said the forthcoming visit to Pakistan by an Afghan delegation was to hold talks on improving bilateral relations and some other issues, including the reopening of that country's embassy in Kabul.

Ghafurzai added: Afghans welcome Pakistan's participation in the reconstruction of their country.

An Afghan delegation is planning to visit Islamabad for talks with high ranking Pakistani authorities next Saturday [10 August].

Afghanistan: Radio Reports Document 3 of Rabbani-Hekmatyar Agreement

LD0608211596 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto 0730 GMT 6 Aug 96 to Afghanistan

[FBIS Translated Text] We now invite you to listen to Document 3 of the Mahipar Agreement [signed by Hekmatyar and Rabbani in May under which the former assumed the office of prime minister]. Document 3 of the Mahipar Agreement between Hezb-e Eslami and Jam'iyat-e Eslami: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Constitution of the interim period:

1. Afghanistan is an Islamic country where all aspects of the life of the people will be managed in the light of the Islamic Shari'ah.
2. In Afghanistan laws, bylaws, and regulations emanate from Islam.
3. No law that is against the spirit of Islam can be introduced in the country. All problems and disputes should referred to the Islamic Shari'ah [for solution], and a solution that is in line with Shari'ah will be the final one.
4. The Islamic State of Afghanistan cannot enter an agreement or commitment — in internal or external affairs — with any party that contradicts the tenets of Islam.
5. The president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan is the leader and the symbol of national unity of the country. He discharges his duties regarding the affairs of the country in line with the tenets of Islam.
6. The cabinet acts as the unitary [words indistinct] of the Islamic State of Afghanistan under the chairmanship of the prime minister.
7. Within the limits of their authorities, the president and prime minister of the state run the country. In the event of disagreement, a joint session of the president, the prime minister, and the cabinet will be held.
8. Within its defined authority, the cabinet under the chairmanship of prime minister, is the decisionmaking source in political, administrative, and social affairs.
9. The electoral commission will decide on the circumstances and conditions under which elections will be held.
10. During the interim period, the cabinet will make decisions on government policy, the nation's annual budget, and administrative regulations.

11. The cabinet's decisions on government policy, annual budget, and administrative regulations will be referred to the president for his assent.

12. Cabinet decisions and appointments and dismissals of civil servants that require presidential assent will be elaborated and discussed for a month.

13. Printing banknotes and concluding contracts in this respect will be done on the proposal of the Ministry of Finance with the knowledge of the cabinet and with presidential approval.

14. The appointments of civil and military officials is within the jurisdiction of the president, who will make the appointments on the advice of the relevant ministry with the approval of the prime minister in accordance with the law. Proposed appointments will be presented through the office of prime minister to receive the presidential assent.

The authorities of the president:

1. Appointment and dismissal of Supreme Court judges in keeping with the laws of the country.

2. The president is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the country and will declare war or peace on the advice of the cabinet or the Islamic Shura of the country.

3. Commencing and ending Islamic Shura.

4. The protection of national unity, territorial integrity, and the defense of the people's and the country's interests, the independence and [words indistinct]

5. The approval of death sentences and pardons for criminals in line with the tenets of Shari'ah.

6. Appointments of Afghan diplomats to foreign countries and the appointment of Afghanistan's permanent representative at the United Nations, and the acceptance of foreign diplomats' credentials in line with the provisions of this agreement.

7. Signing international treaties in line with the spirit and provisions of this agreement and giving assent to laws.

8. In the event of the president's death, the president of the Supreme Court will act as president until a new president can be appointed.

9. The presidency can transfer some of its authority to another legal body.

10. [words indistinct] Power and authority of the prime minister and cabinet:

1. To approve agreements and to implement external and internal policy in accordance with the spirit of the provisions of this accord.

2. To administer, organize, and [words indistinct] of the ministries, independent departments, and social units.

3. To make administrative and executive decisions in accordance with the [word indistinct] provisions, and to supervise their enforcement.

4. To prepare the country's annual budget, to control financial affairs, and to utilize all financial resources for the strengthening of the country's economy and to create a satisfactory system.

5. [Words indistinct] to approve and to discuss agreements, to conclude construction and economic accords with international bodies. [words indistinct]

6. To adopt necessary measures for the observance of Islamic morality and social order, and to strengthen religious (?duties) in society.

7. To secure social justice through the relevant organs of the government and in accordance with the Islamic system.

8. To maintain other authorities that have been defined by law.

Afghanistan: Tatarstan Hopes For Muslim Help in Freeing Pilots

LD0708102796 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0901 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Aug 7 (Interfax) — The authorities of the internal Russian republic of Tatarstan are relying on the help of leaders of Muslim countries in order to free seven Russian pilots held by the Afghan opposition movement Taleban.

Head of Tatarstan's State Council Vasily Likhachyov on Tuesday [6 August] sent a message to the national assembly (the lower chamber of parliament) of Pakistan with a request "to use their authority and influence" in order to assist in the return of the Russian citizens as soon as possible.

The Russian crew, which was flying an IL-76 aircraft belonging to the Tatar aviation company Aerostan, was seized by the Talibs last August.

Likhachyov expressed the hope in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX that members of the Pakistani parliament may "play their role in the liberation of our people."

Likhachyov reported that he met with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov several days ago and with

Secretary of Russia's Security Council Aleksandr Lebed to discuss the problem of the pilots' liberation. "As far as I know, Primakov raised this subject during his meeting with the foreign ministers of India and Indonesia during his recent visit to Jakarta," Likhachyov said.

For his part, Lebed expressed readiness to render all-round assistance in this case.

The visit of Tatar presidential adviser Timur Akulov to Iran is connected with the solution of the problem of the pilots. Akulov intends to meet with several influential politicians in Iran, Likhachyov said.

Likhachyov said the situation is paradoxical. On the one hand, the Talibs gave an opportunity to the prisoners to participate in the presidential elections and are treating them humanly, on the other hand they reject any attempts to agree on their liberation. "The Russian party has already proposed to [the Talebs] a ransom totalling \$2 million, however they have refused to take it," Likhachyov said.

India

India: Japanese Influence on CTBT, South Asian Security Viewed

BK0608141396 Madras THE HINDU in English
6 Aug 96 p 11

[Article by C. Raja Mohan: "India, Japan, and the CTBT"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As India begins to assess the possible diplomatic fallout from its current principled position on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT], Japan may emerge as the most important factor after the United States in India's calculus. Out of its own volition and as a result of prodding from the United States, Tokyo could become one of the main points of pressure against India on the CTBT in the coming months.

Japan is now one of the most enthusiastic champions of the early conclusion of the global ban on nuclear testing that is being finalised at Geneva. Japan has identified non-proliferation as a key area of its international political activism since the end of the Cold War. In the last few years, Japan has taken more than the usual interest in the South Asian nuclear issues and has occasionally sought to nudge, if only gently, India and Pakistan on the path of non-proliferation.

Many American analysts believe that pressure from Japan, the single largest donor of foreign aid to the sub-continent, will be essential for the success of the U.S. strategy to "cap, roll back, and eventually eliminate" the nuclear and missile capabilities of India and Pakistan.

With India now all set to reject the CTBT, and a predictable Pakistan following suit. The American efforts to use the global route to cap the nuclear capability of New Delhi and Islamabad may have suffered a setback. Once the CTBT is in place, getting India and Pakistan to join it in the next couple of years will be at the top of arms control priorities of the United States. And Japan is likely to be at the head of the chorus line that will be orchestrated by Washington to persuade India to fall in line.

Japan will be well-advised to resist the temptation to talk down to India on the CTBT. Japan's hectoring [word as published] on non-proliferation in general and the CTBT in particular carries little conviction, given the many ambiguities in Japan's own nuclear policy. Tokyo has a fund of goodwill in this country, and need not squander it on the CTBT, an issue on which there is strong national consensus and a political will in New Delhi to stand up to external coercion.

Japan's enthusiasm for the CTBT is easily explained. Tokyo would like to see the nuclear weapons capability of its gigantic neighbour, China, frozen. However clever the Japanese may be in packaging their national interest in universal terms, the real objective is to limit the rise of China as the next dominant power in Asia.

Disturbing build-up

But Japan's own defence policies have tended to accentuate the insecurity of China. Chinese analysts find Tokyo's relentless military build-up since the early 1980s, the recent reinvigoration of the alliance with the United States, and the untiring efforts to lift the current constitutional restrictions on the use of Japanese troops abroad are part of a grand strategy that is profoundly disturbing.

But nothing worries China more than the Japanese plans, in tandem with the United States, to build a "Star Wars" defence system for deployment in Asia. Military analysts in Beijing believe that such a missile defence system in Asia will degrade the credibility of the limited Chinese nuclear deterrent. There is concern in Beijing that the CTBT is part of a U.S.-Japanese strategy aimed at shifting the arms race in Asia towards the sphere of missile defences and space based capabilities — an area in which China will find it difficult to compete.

Japan should have little difficulty in understanding that the CTBT debate in New Delhi is about the future of India's nuclear option. For nearly half a century, Japan has relied on American nuclear weapons for its own defence. Secure under the American nuclear umbrella, Japan will have problems of credibility if it preaches India on the virtues of nuclear nonproliferation. To carry

conviction in India, Japan will have to reject its current reliance on nuclear deterrence.

Throughout Asia, there is deep concern about Japan's own nuclear ambitions. It has accumulated vast quantities of plutonium. There have been credible reports about significant quantities of plutonium missing from its civilian nuclear programme. Japan has also a massive rocket programme, and is now participating in the development of world's most advanced missile systems. There is a debate now in Japan about the dangers of continued reliance on the American nuclear umbrella and the problems of developing its own nuclear deterrent. Sharing with Japan an uncertain strategic environment in Asia, India can easily empathize with Tokyo's nuclear-predicament. But India also expects Japan to show an equal understanding of India's nuclear dilemmas.

India will remember this week, with profound grief, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As the only nation to have suffered atomic devastation 51 years ago, the people of Japan are imbued with a deep commitment to peace and a strong allergy towards nuclear weapons. But the record of the Japanese government in the international struggle for disarmament is, to put it mildly, an ambivalent one. It is a record of reliance on nuclear deterrence for national security, active participation in the nuclear confrontations of the Cold War, considerable vacillation in its commitment to abolition of nuclear weapons, and a readiness to open new lines of armed confrontation in Asia. Given this record, it will be difficult to take Japan seriously on arms control and non-proliferation.

India: India's CTBT Opposition Viewed as Not 'Anti-Americanism'

BK0608030296 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA
in English 5 Aug 96 p 11

[Article by C. Uday Bhaskar: "Anti-Americanism Alone Should Not Decide CTBT Stand"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India's nuclear posture has finally hardened with the assertion that the option will be exercised "at the right time." This resolve was prompted by the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] deliberations now in their very last lap in Geneva and the dominant interpretation that the treaty has become a case of a defiant India pitted against the US.

The inference that follows is that India is attempting to resist and, if need be, buck the US on CTBT and the Geneva talks have been reduced to a simplistic black and white definition.

The reality however is more complex. A scrutiny of the fine print suggests that the CTBT poker game is being played at two levels. The first is exclusive and includes only the five nuclear weapon states which is the substantive part of what is being negotiated at CTBT. The second level involves the so-called threshold states and India looms large on this table.

But this game has greater symbolism than substance as far as the US is concerned. Thus, the US has had to enter into many compromises with the other nuclear weapon states to keep them on board the CTBT, China is a recent entrant having conducted its last test just a week before the 51st anniversary of Hiroshima. To that extent the US has yielded on many issues to the other nuclear weapon states in finalising the Ramaker draft and here emerges what has become crucial and oppressive for India — the entry-into-force (EIF) clause.

The US, whose top priority is to lock the nuclear weapon states in their respective niches on the nuclear weapons curve, sought a simple EIF for CTBT—ratification by a certain number of countries, say, 40, but in eluding all the five nuclear weapon states. This would have met the US aim. But a new EIF targeting India was introduced by the UK and supported by China and Russia.

While the vicious attack on India by the British representative is well known, it merits recall that China was determined that the EIF must include India. At the June 6 plenary in Geneva, the Chinese ambassador asserted that all states technically capable of conducting nuclear explosions had to be in eluded in EIF and rejected any compromises or waiver options.

While China's reasons for fettering India's option are comprehensible, the compulsions behind the UK and Russia adopting such a hardline, rope-India stance merit greater scrutiny.

One may infer that in the pursuit of the bigger goal — getting the nuclear weapon states on to CTBT — the US did some horse-trading and in the bargain, India has been pushed into a corner. Speaking in Geneva, John Holum, the top US negotiator, added: "We don't lie the EIF provision either. We would much prefer a simple number and argue that only the five nuclear weapon states are indispensable. That wouldn't sell. There is no way we could get a treaty with that."

It is evident that the UK, China and Russia, who are wary of a CTBT, are looking for what the WALL STREET JOURNAL editorially referred to as an "excuse to hide behind India's skirts" and, as THE NEW YORK TIMES adds, this has led to "unwise and unnecessary bargaining concessions made by the Clinton administration". However, in the ultimate analysis India

has been nudged into a cul-de-sac — but not at US insistence.

The nuclear issue is nettlesome and India must evolve a posture of adequacy for its long-term interests. To that extent it must harmonise its priorities and dig in its heels where required but it would be misleading to interpret the EII² as an American perfidy. Here it is more a case of America being out-voted in the nuclear club by UK, China and Russia.

The CTBT negotiations have not been without their silver lining insofar as India is concerned India has been acknowledged as belonging in a separate category between the nuclear weapon states and the clandestine/threshold nuclear powers.

For the first time a sense of realism has permeated the domestic nuclear debate with an awareness that nuclear weapons will be dominant in international relations well into the next century—till 2060 at least.

India will have to define the "right response" for the "right time" and the final posture adopted at the CTBT talks must mesh with this long-term strategy for India into the next century. A show of resolve or defiance at this stage is not an end unto itself.

India: Article Views South Asia's 'Nuclear Ambiguity'

*BK0508154096 Delhi THE PIONEER (Supplement)
in English 4 Aug 96 p 4*

[Article by Raja Mohan: "Ambiguity as an Incredible Nuclear Theology"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After a decade by India watchers to identify the institutions responsible for making nuclear weapon policy, there was a recent admission in the newspapers for the first time that the country was not going to sign the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] in its present form because the Chiefs of Staff Committee (among others) had advised against it. This is indeed a small step forward since the Chiefs of Staff Committee were never consulted when India first proposed nuclear disarmament four decades ago. The committee was also not consulted prior to the Pokhran blast, and the committee was ignorant of the official government stand in the months leading up to the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] fiasco. It is of course possible that the refusal to sign the CTBT was so serious a matter that the faceless organizations which had so far bungled strategic decision making, now needed a high level excuse for taking a step which could boomerang economically. Hence the reference to the Chiefs of Staff Committee among others so that the adverse fallout, if any, could be shared by more institutions.

During the run-up to the NPT and the more recent CTBT, it was interesting to see how comprehensive was the view that the nuclear bomb was a foreign policy option, and not a weapon. The uncharitable said that this was primarily because the subject was being discussed by the Government in an MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] file. Surely if it was a weapon it would be discussed in an MOD file? The arguments for signing it varied from the need to be constant to our earlier stand proposing such a treaty forty years ago, to our responsibility to contribute to "world peace". It is interesting to look at the various arms of the government and see who is responsible for what in solving a national security problem. The finance and commerce people are keen to, or should be keen to advance the country economically, and if the major trading nations are going to restrict trade to India because of Delhi's stand on the bomb, they would rather we didn't make it. But there is a long way to travel between the major trading governments doing something, and their own multinationals permitting it to be done. If the Government could do all that is patently obvious for the overall economic advancement of their people the Indian government would long ago have disinvested sick PSUs [Public Sector Units], scrapped the state electricity boards, abolished the CPWD [Central Public Works Department] and axed the bureaucracy. The Americans in pursuit of world peace would stop trading with communist China and fundamentalism funding Saudi Arabia. Since none of this happens, it is more than likely that if we were to make a credible nuclear deterrent, half of Silicon valley would be in Delhi helping us to do so, and make a couple of bucks in the meanwhile.

Another arm of the government, the External Affairs Ministry, it is clear, does not want to be bullied over signing the CTBT, because it simply doesn't want to be bullied on anything. It would be naive to assume that the MEA actually has a vision of a nuclear armed India, with a specific level of deterrence, so that hence forward Indian diplomats, when they speak will do so as representatives of a nuclear power. Of all the MEAs, our own one perhaps understands power the least, not for any fault of its own. The senior officials grew up in Nehru's time when power was eschewed as a factor in foreign policy motivation. Instead we occupied the moral high ground, irritating everyone else and for at least the last twelve years the author is aware, the MEA has resisted getting into a dialogue with the armed forces to coordinate defence and diplomacy. So it is unlikely that the MEA understands the nuances of nuclear theology, or that they wish to resist the CTBT from an intellectual viewpoint.

The Defence Ministry is quite something else. As a newspaper columnist recently said, why should the Generals and Admirals complain about the present Minister? After all, he can stand straight and salute. Perhaps, that is being unkind to the minister, for a previous incumbent who also was a wrestler, from Maharashtra, turned out to be one of the most successful defence ministers of all time. So grassroots ministers have to be brought up to standard by "experts". A commodity not easily found in the MOD [Ministry of Defense] which could consist of bureaucrats with diverse backgrounds like agriculture, power distribution, cottage industry and the like. This is where the Chiefs of Staff Committee should come in—but do they? Ever since the arguments on the NPT began, some things have become clear. The sheer inability of the PM's [Prime Minister's] Office, which apparently handles the matter, to make up its mind on stating India's nuclear policy has been so long standing that foreign observers have convinced themselves that surely no government can be so incompetent. Therefore, they concluded, Delhi actually had a devious oriental game plan which was a new variant of the established principles of western nuclear theology. This they christened nuclear ambiguity, a brilliant South Asian invention, where a nation transits from "No Bomb" to "Full Deterrence" in a matter of days. New Delhi now heaved a sigh of relief. Academics who needed government support jumped on the ambiguity wagon and named it a few other fine sounding names. Delhi at last had a 'strategy'. But what of the Chiefs of Staff Committee? Some merely sulked in the corner, others were too embarrassed to say that they had not been consulted and knew nothing about the country's ambiguous capability. A few stood up and stated unequivocally that whatever the scientists and bureaucrats may dream up, the country had no nuclear capability, and were certainly nowhere near achieving deterrence. In any case, whether deterrence was achieved or not, it would have been more relevant to ask Islamabad or Beijing. Neither capital has acted in any manner as to indicate their belief in a credible Indian deterrence. The unfortunate aspect of all this is that if there is a hardheaded professional body in the country, it is the Chiefs of Staff Committee. Individually they have reached the top of their profession — their advisers are the best the services have to offer. The decisions they take pertain to the clash of wills, weapons and men. To have stood by and permitted the government to adopt a policy of nuclear ambiguity meant a betrayal of all the principles of warfare on which they had been brought up. Nuclear warfare requires nuclear deterrence or nothing. Deterrence must include an inventory of warheads and delivery systems that caters for operational losses, mission failures and pre-emptive

strike. Above all, the capability must be advertised, because nuclear weapons are not a secret weapon whose use is clearly premeditated to achieving victory on the battlefield. Its power must be visible enough in peacetime for it never to be used. Knowing all this, what has the committee actually done? It acquiesced in the induction of the Prithvi as part of the "ambiguity" programme, knowing full well that the 1974 nuclear test is insufficient to confer on the Prithvi, a credible nuclear warhead. This professional body joined the dreamers and non professionals of the PMO in converting what is actually a national security issue into a foreign policy issue.

Admittedly, much of the drift and blundering took place when there was no full time Minister of Defence, other than the PM himself. The Minister of State of Defence was a notorious light weight who could only be entrusted with laying foundation stones and cutting ribbons. So if the committee lacked a spokesman in the Cabinet, this is understandable, but the blunders were not part of the cabinet's work — it entirely originated in the PMO.

What should the Chiefs of Staff do when the armed forces of India operate outside the government, unlike anyone else in the world? To wait upon constitutional propriety until the politicians see the light and voluntarily call the chiefs of staff into the government is to presume the absurd. The politician is a self made creation, a man far bolder than any entrepreneur, who risks everything on the elections to win or lose all. To him a man who waits on the sidelines to be called to be given his due, is a man to be left in the sidelines. The chiefs of staff are today effectively isolated from the levels of decision making by self-serving bureaucrats.

The parliamentary estimates committee who objected to the functioning of the MOD for three years running, then called for testimony, at which, only the MOD gave testimony, on its own behalf! Naturally the services wonder, how a committee that includes the most powerful man in India can be given such a run around.

India: Regional Security Prioritized Over Global Alliance

BK0508155396 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH
in English 3 Aug 96 p 8

[Article by Sunanda K. Data-Ray: "India's Security Interests Are Better Served by Regional Alliances Than the Nuclear Option: Forget Tricks, Go for Treaties"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China's latest — and supposedly last — nuclear test provided dramatic justification of the charge, levelled by India's ambassador, Arundhati Ghose at the June session of the conference on

disarmament, that "countries around us continue their nuclear programmes either openly or in a clandestine manner." Yet it may be asked whether passionate resistance to the comprehensive test ban treaty does address that problem. Of the principle on which India stands there is no doubt. But when principle is at conflict with pragmatism, one is reminded of Vijayalakshmi Pandit's story about how she went up to the South African statesman, Jan Smuts, at the United Nations before launching the global campaign against apartheid, and told him that M.K. Gandhi had enjoined on her to obtain his blessings for the enterprise. "You will win, my daughter," Smuts told her, "but it will be a hollow victory."

Regrettably, security does not seem to be India's only, or even primary, concern. If it were, it would have been solved long ago if, instead of taking such perverse pride in what Inder Kumar Gujral describes as "a policy of unparalleled restraint", India had declared itself a nuclear state in 1974. Horror, shock, bitter denunciation, perhaps even some retaliation, would have followed.

But the world soon gets used to what it cannot change. As masters of *realpolitik* [power politics], the Soviet Union and China would have looked for ways of turning an avowedly nuclear south Asian country to their own advantage. Pakistan could have done no more than it has in any case. The British would have followed their United States masters. The WASHINGTON POST would have genuflected at the altar of the visible bomb instead of sneering at India's alleged "historical policy of advancing itself as a nation with a higher moral code and a mission of international leadership".

For all its jeering, therefore, the WASHINGTON POST is closer to the truth than it realises. For, as the paper admits, it is not only the perception that India "needs to deter its nuclear armed geopolitical rival China and its nuclear armed subcontinental rival Pakistan" that accounts for a staunch refusal to endorse a dangerous and discriminatory dispensation. Bumbling and verbose our leaders might seem, but at the core of foreign policy still lingers the enlightenment that prompted Jawaharlal Nehru on April 2, 1954, the morning after the US tested the first hydrogen bomb, to call for a standstill agreement to halt nuclear testing pending elimination of nuclear weapons. Nehru saw the two as part of a continuous process, and not the first as an end in itself, with the elimination of nuclear weapons put off indefinitely.

That holy grail is what New Delhi still pursues, instead of securing India's defence through alliance with nations that have a stake in the region's stability and in the opportunities that India's economic growth offers them. There is a lesson to be learnt here from Japan, which has

been highly successful in separating its strategic from its economic concerns without accepting any imposed limitation on its options. Also from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which seeks to defuse perceived threat through close involvement at several levels.

These are examples of pragmatism for India to consider, especially now that the Geneva process has reiterated what last year's indefinite extension of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty had already indicated — global disarmament is just not on the agenda. Having scrambled so hard to join the club, and quibbling now over inspection, China will never dismantle its nuclear arsenal.

India's mounting security problems are not dissolved by slashing defence expenditure drastically while arguing against the CTBT on a wavelength to which the rest of the world has never been tuned in. The distinction India draws between a treaty that is shaped more by the nuclear club's technological preferences than by the imperatives of disarmament, and a treaty that is firmly placed in a disarmament framework, is lost on the conference. For it, and for media audiences the world over, India is only keeping its options open because, if it does not already have a bomb (or several) in the basement, it will do so soon enough. Many might feel it would be a shame to disappoint them. Even if India does so, it will not be believed.

Taking all this into account, closer integration with ASEAN, and membership of the ASEAN Regional Forum, both sealed at Jakarta last month, will serve India's strategic needs better than being the world's odd man out. The CTBT is humbug, but blocking it may not amount to more than another hollow victory, especially if the West goes ahead with its threat to call on individual governments to sign the treaty after the United Nations general assembly has cleared it by a simple majority. The real need for India is first and foremost to identify those who are adversely interested, and then to examine how their hostile potential can be neutralised.

Two challenges must be noted. One is the terrorist campaign of which India is a victim, not just in Jammu and Kashmir but wherever there is civil strife, sabotage and bomb outrages. The other is the not to be discounted possibility of formal aggression. Whether the threat is from across the western or northern border, in neither situation can the balance of nuclear terror be of more than limited advantage. India's ambivalent position does not enable it even to play the deterrent card, as China obviously can. Third party activism should, therefore, play a much bigger part in India's defence calculations.

This is why ASEAN and the ARF [ASEAN Regional Forum] assume such importance. In the 1960s different perceptions of Indochina distanced India from most other countries of southeast Asia. In the 1990s, shared concern over Myanmar [Burma] should bring them closer together. Much of northern Myanmar has been under de facto Chinese control for more than 40 years, settled by Guomindang soldiers whose poppy cultivation helped to finance their military campaign against communist China. Ironically, that exercise is believed to have been helped, if not masterminded, by the US's Central Intelligence Agency, which became involved later in counter-narcotics operations, and, later still, in subverting the official US funded anti-drugs campaign in order to discredit the military junta in Yangon [Rangoon].

But the Chinese in northern Myanmar no longer support the Guomindang in Taiwan. They are with a Beijing that has made tremendous political, economic and military inroads into Myanmar. Not only does the dredging of the gulf of Martaban and the naval facilities being built on the Cocos islands, just off the Andamans, bring an alien force into India's coastal waters, they could affect the approach to the straits of Malacca. Unchallenged, China might be in a position to control shipping lanes on both sides of the southeast Asian region.

ASEAN's response to the challenge is to try and engage China at all levels, making its own economic prosperity and, therefore, political stability indispensable to China's own growth. Ambitious multilateral projects like developing the Mekong basin and laying tracks across Asia thus acquire a political rationale far removed from economic objectives: Gujral followed the same strategy in holding bilateral talks in Jakarta with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, thereby sending a signal that India wants to expand and intensify the dialogue with China.

The other role model is of Japan for whom the rise of China has only underlined the need to reinforce its ties with the US. Hence, the joint declaration issued in April going far beyond the existing treaty to allow US troops, regarded until now as fulfilling only a defensive role, facilities in Japan for fire fighting operations throughout the region. China's belligerent response to the arrangement revealed acute insensitivity to its long term purport.

"The US is Japan's sole ally, and stands at the centre of Japan's international relations," wrote Masaka Kosaka, a professor at Kyoto University, before he died. Yet, when it comes to trade and investment, no country could oppose the US more fiercely than Japan — unless it be the region's other US ally, South Korea.

China's latest action in relation to the Paracel islands has sent shivers down the ASEAN spine. It strengthens the fears raised by China's earlier initiative in the Spratlys, and its increasing control over Myanmar. Another destabilising factor could be the need to import oil to maintain a high economic growth rate. It has already prompted the Chinese to build up their naval forces to secure the sea lanes, and to court west Asian governments with offers of hardware and military technology.

There may still not be much to fear so long as China is in desperate need of foreign investment, and so long as the US retains 100,000 troops in the region to back its commitment. But even if US domestic opinion were not fundamentally isolationist, a concert of Asia must one day take over the job of underwriting Asian security. Japan in the west and India in the east would then be the best guarantors of stability, not through any old fashioned attempt at containment but by cooperating in the ARF and other such fora, with a China that provides the mechanism with its central leg.

What Smuts called a hollow victory did ultimately acquire substance. But rhetoric played a smaller part in that fruition than the combination of circumstances, global and domestic, that combined to pressure South Africa's racist rulers into seeing reason. The two situations are not entirely comparable. But the option between lone crusading and realistic cooperation is.

Nehru's mission might have been to try to make the world safe for posterity. Contemporary India's is to secure the country's defences. India has a chance now of doing just that through realistic cooperation instead of chasing the will o' the wisp of principle down a blind lane to the satisfaction of a second hollow victory.

India: Delhi's Criticism of Chinese Nuclear Test Analyzed

BK0608141996 *Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA*
in English 6 Aug 96 p 11

["News Analysis" by Mahendra Ved: "Indian Diplomacy Breaks Silence Over Chinese Test"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Experts on nuclear disarmament cannot recall the last time India reacted to China conducting a nuclear test. The traditional Indian silence, extended to other nuclear powers as well and which has been a part of its style of conducting foreign affairs, has been misunderstood over the years.

Pleading and working for nuclear disarmament is fine, but failure to react each time a test is conducted has been quite inexplicable, particularly in the case of China, since it is of direct concern to India's security. Perhaps

the military debacle of 1962, but definitely an anxiety to keep the bilateral relations on a smooth course, has dictated this silence.

That is why India's mild criticism of the 45th and the final nuclear test by China assumes significance. A number of reasons can be attributed for this. One is the massive pressure, though hotly denied officially, put by all those who want to push the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), first at Geneva and then at the UN General Assembly. They all seem to have agreed that India is the "bad boy" of the nuclear world, unwilling to get off the threshold. They are bracing to give India the Humpty-Dumpty treatment.

The second reason is the cynical manner in which China timed the nuclear test, just on the day the Geneva talks resumed. India felt that the "hunk" next door, in no way sympathetic to its stand on the draft CTBT and in fact working against it in Geneva, was showing off its muscles.

The third reason, a significant one, may well be attributed to the change of political leadership. The ministry of external affairs (MEA) appears to have regained control of its decision-making process from the Prime Minister's Office which is yet to be fully constituted after Mr Deve Gowda assumed office. It seems ready to clear up the cobwebs and emerge as the key force in issues involving national defence and prestige. External affairs minister I K Gujral, one of the very few in the ruling coalition who can tackle delicate diplomatic tasks, aided by the continuity that the extended term of foreign secretary Salman Haider provides, can be credited with the new MEA approach.

This perception emerges from the quiet rumblings in South Block and among a section of think-tanks that India need not have got so close to the US and co-sponsored the CTBT in 1993, knowing fully well that not only the US, but any of the nuclear weapons powers was is and would always remain, hostile to Indian nuclear aspirations. The current Indian dilemma, they say would have perhaps been less nagging had it not been identified with a treaty that it does not want to sign in its current form.

If India is the "bad boy", China has emerged as the "big boy" of Asia which has completed its course of nuclear tests and now places a moratorium on itself. "Halting nuclear tests is an important step towards nuclear disarmament," it now says. It is willing to sign the CTBT save some haggling on the verification procedures.

To be fair, the July 29 statement on nuclear tests by the Chinese government contains some aspects with which India would fully agree.

China wants a CTBT that is "reasonable and verifiable with universal adherence". It makes a five point appeal that major nuclear powers abandon their policy of nuclear deterrence, no-first-use of nuclear weapons and no use against a non-nuclear power, withdraw all warheads deployed outside national borders, pledge to create nuclear free zones, non-deployment of space weapons systems and an international convention on complete prohibition and eventual destruction of nuclear weapons.

But the commonality ends here. At Geneva, China has sought the option for peaceful nuclear explosions (PNE), but wants it confined to the five nuclear weapons powers. For India, China is definitely on the other side of the barricade.

One of the reasons for India pushing for total nuclear disarmament and its reluctance to sign the CTBT in its present form is the Chinese nuclear capability and its continuous help to Pakistan, both of which have created an asymmetry in the South Asian region. India has nothing matching the Chinese. Indeed, China signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and its willingness to sign the CTBT do not affect the nation's current or future nuclear weapons capability and its development in the future. Therefore, it will remain a source of concern for India.

Unwilling to exercise its nuclear option, for the time being at least, India realises that this asymmetry is bound to continue. Not only in military terms, but also in terms of diplomacy, it gives China a tremendous advantage vis-a-vis India. Whether our silence has helped is doubtful. India would have served its cause better by speaking out. That is what China has done and that is what Japan, Russia and others around China have been doing.

The "dismay" that India has expressed at the Chinese nuclear test, and all of the 2,047 tests conducted by four other nations in the last 45 years, is hardly likely to have any impact on bilateral relations. The two sides can move towards exchange of visits by Mr Gujral and his counterpart Qian Qichen, and eventually the politically significant visit by President Ziang Zemin.

India: Wisner's Kashmir Visit 'Dabbling' in Internal Matters

BK0508144496 Bangalore DECCAN HERALD
in English 5 Aug 96

[Article by Nitish Chakraverty: "U.S. Has No Role To Play in Kashmir"—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members of the Lok Sabha last week rose above their party labels to decry the manner in which Mr Frank Wisner, US Ambassador in New Delhi, is exceeding the bounds of diplomatic privilege to dabble in India's internal matters. Mr Wisner is not the first representative of Washington to arrogate to himself the right to give gratuitous advice to India on what in his or his government's judgment is best for this country. Nor is Mr Wisner the first American diplomat to cross the boundary of diplomatic rights. Some of his predecessors have done that and got away.

The US wants to play the role of the world's Big Brother. Its diplomats and government officials often treat the domestic issues of other countries, especially so-called Third World nations, as if these are matters well within the jurisdiction of the US administration. It is not uncommon for American officials posted in India to behave arrogantly. And US government functionaries have often tried not only to twist India's arms but also to dictate to India what its duties are.

India bashing is a favorite game of US State Department functionaries like Ms Robin Raphel. And now US Secretary of State Warren Christopher himself has adopted a threatening posture over the CTBT issue.

Mr Wisner has gone to Kashmir with an entourage of a dozen or so functionaries from the American Embassy in Delhi apparently on a mission to "study the situation in Kashmir", where preparations are under way to hold elections to constitute a new Legislative Assembly. None need be surprised if on his return to Delhi he points an accusing finger at all the "inadequacies" he discovered on his trip, and tells South Block [External Affairs Ministry] what needs to be done to set things right.

His style and manner suggests that his interests go beyond the legitimate function of a diplomat to study the socio-political and socio-economic situation in a country or in a part of the country to which he is accredited. On the contrary, Mr Wisner seems to have busied himself in Kashmir with the pet American obsession of finding a "solution of the Kashmir dispute".

The American diplomat has had his date not only with officials of the Jammu and Kashmir administration and leaders of recognised political parties; he has had access to senior Army officers. His bear-hug with

militant leaders has provided excellent footage to the electronic media. It is a hangover of our colonial past that foreign, especially western, diplomats have easy access to highly-placed people in this country, although Indian diplomats usually get short shrift abroad.

Mr Wisner's rubbing shoulders with the J & K [Jammu and Kashmir] Governor's Security Adviser and militant leaders like Mr Shabir Shah shows that he is not on a straightforward mission of finding facts about the ground realities in the State or the foreigners taken hostage by militants. No matter whether Mr Wisner and Mr Shabir Shah talked about the weather or the Kashmir problem, there is absolutely no doubt that the militants will draw inspiration from such meetings.

Quite rightly therefore the MPs expressed their fear that Mr Wisner's visit may pose a security risk. The critics included Congress MP's like Mr Rajesh Pilot, who in the Narasimha Rao Government was put in charge of Kashmir affairs for some time, and Mr Mallikarjun, Minister of State for Defence in the Rao regime. The latter minced no words in pointing out that the Ambassador should not have been allowed to meet top military officers.

There is no reason to assume that sensitive information that may have been shared in confidence with the American Ambassador about the security measures taken by India to maintain peace on the border and check cross-border movement of extremists would under no circumstances fall into undesirable hands. After all the boundary line between diplomacy and espionage is thin.

Reports from Srinagar suggest that some militant leaders have taken advantage of Mr Wisner's visit to Kashmir to plead with the US administration to put pressure on India not to hold elections until a political solution is evolved and conditions created for the participation of all sections of the people. A spokesman of Mr Shabir Shah, who invited the Ambassador to lunch at his Srinagar home, told the media that "elections held under the shadow of Indian troops" would not provide a solution.

Senator Hank Brown, who amended the Pressler Law to facilitate the delivery of lethal arms to Pakistan, is about to land in New Delhi on a similar mission to "study the situation in Kashmir". The government's bowing to American pressure to allow the none-too-friendly Senator to proceed to Srinagar to see things for himself gives a hollow ring to Foreign Minister I K Gujral's brave words about India not compromising its security concerns under any pressure.

There are no two opinions that the Assembly polls in Kashmir, to be credible, must be conducted in a fair and

free manner. There should be perfect transparency, so that no opportunity is given to traditional Cassandras to cast doubts about the legitimacy of the people's verdict, and to mislead the international community that the elections were stage managed.

In order to attract all political parties into the electoral process, the government will have to strengthen the law and order machinery so that the fear of militants does not deter those willing to participate in elections either as candidates or as voters. At the same time political steps are necessary to restore confidence that New Delhi will not drag its feet on the question of granting Kashmir greater autonomy. But there certainly is no need for the government to bend over backwards and kowtow to the United States.

The Clinton administration should be given no more chance to meddle in India's domestic concerns than other foreign governments. Firmness is needed not only to scupper an arbitrary ban on nuclear weapon testing but also to foil attempts to poke a nose into India's domestic concerns.

India: Gowda Visits Kashmir, Promises Funds To Develop Infrastructure

BK0508163696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister says a special program for the speedy development of the Ladakh region will be announced soon. Addressing a large gathering at a civic reception in his honor in Leh today, Mr. Deve Gowda said the Center will also provide funds for the development of the city of Leh. Praising the role of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in fighting militancy, the prime minister hoped that an elected government will be installed shortly for the overall development of the state.

Earlier, speaking at the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, the prime minister said the Center has accorded special attention to Ladakh and Kargil in the two economic packages announced for Jammu and Kashmir. Giving details, he referred to the proposed scheme to create permanent infrastructure like construction of the Udhampur-Baramulla railway line at a cost of 2,250 crore rupees, scheme for construction of alternate highways and speedy implementation of other development projects. Addressing jawans [soldiers], Mr. Deve Gowda commended their sacrifices in the defense of the country's borders.

The prime minister ended his day-long visit to the state with a meeting of leaders of political parties in Jammu in the afternoon. He also held talks with the state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, and senior

state government officials. Mr. Deve Gowda said the problems of the people of Jammu would be examined separately. He said there is no ground for concern on the autonomy question, as this will be discussed with the elected government after the assembly elections.

Addressing a news conference, the prime minister said the center wants to hold free and fair elections in the state, and the decision has been conveyed to the Election Commission. Now it is for the Election Commission to announce the poll dates.

India: Congress Welcomes Order To Investigate Telephone Tapping

BK0508143396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has asked the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] to conduct an impartial inquiry into the allegation of telephone tapping. In a letter to the CBI director, Mr. Joginder Singh, Mr. Deve Gowda said he had never issued any instructions regarding telephone tapping at any point of time against any political leader. He said he is taking the step to find out the clue to clear any possible doubt on this issue. The prime minister said that the inquiry will not only cover the period since his assuming charge of the office of prime minister, but also his 18-months tenure as chief minister of Karnataka. He further directed that the inquiry report on both these issues be furnished within a month.

The Indian National Congress has welcomed the prime minister's decision to order a CBI inquiry into the allegation of tapping of telephones of several party leaders. In a statement in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the Congress party in parliament, Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, said the government has already officially denied that there is any tapping of telephones, and now it has ordered a CBI inquiry, which we welcome.

India: Gowda Receives Congress Delegation To Discuss Phone Taps

BK0508150096 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Sunday [4 August] assured a four-member Congress delegation led by Mr Pranab Mukherjee that he would ascertain what precisely gave rise to the suspicion that plainclothes intelligence sleuths were keeping Congress president P.V. Narasimha Rao's residence under surveillance and that his telephone lines along with those of others were being tapped.

The Prime Minister's denial that he had given instructions for surveillance and telephone tapping, however, did not stop several senior functionaries of the Congress from going "cellular" on Sunday.

The Congress delegation comprising Mr Mukherjee, Mr S.B. Chavan, Mr Matang Sinh and Mr Suresh Kalmadi were assured by Mr Deve Gowda in the hour-long meeting that he was opposed to any kind of surveillance and telephone tapping and that "no such thing is happening."

"We voiced our concern. We said that this kind of thing should not happen. He assured us that he was opposed to any such move," Mr Pranab Mukherjee told The Times of India after the meeting.

Former parliamentary affairs Matang Sinh said, "We are satisfied with his assurance." However, he declined to divulge details of the conversation with the Prime Minister.

While Mr Chavan was not available for comment, Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) spokesman Suresh Kalmadi said. "The Prime Minister has given us his word."

Home secretary K. Padmanabhaiah, who on Saturday [3 August] had told The Times of India that if surveillance and tapping were being done, then "it was the handiwork of the Department of Dirty Tricks (Intelligence Bureau)," on Sunday changed tack to say that there was no element of truth in the reports which he described as "mischievous and motivated." He had not denied on Saturday that any such thing was happening.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary Devendra Nath Dwivedi said that it was "disturbing and shocking" that surveillance and telephone tapping should have any place in a democracy. If the reports were true, the guilty must be punished.

"We are not only secular but we have gone cellular also," said one top Congress leader. He believed, erroneously, that cellular telephones cannot be tapped and at the same time maintained. "We have no secrets to discuss. And if our phones were being tapped earlier, they will not be tapped hereafter."

(Since July 1, cellular telephone users have to dial 011 first and then the desired number. By dialing 011 to get entry, every call gets registered and is liable to tapping also. A computer print-out can provide a record of every call made from a cellular phone).

Mr Deve Gowda's prompt initiative in dealing with the issue of surveillance and telephone tapping has been appreciated by the Congress. That could lower the temperature which was rising sharply over growing

tensions between the United Front and the Congress which is supporting the government from the outside. Various aspects are yet to be fully resolved.

Besides Narasimha Rao and about 17 or 18 of his colleagues, sources claimed, also being tapped are the telephone lines of Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, Ms Maneka Gandhi, Rama Krishna Hegde, some senior Bharatiya Janata Party functionaries, former prime minister Chandra Shekhar and some select ministers of the United Front government and UF MPs who have called on Mr Rao recently at his residence at 9, Motilal Nehru Marg.

The Mufti, after quitting the Janata Dal three days ago, only on Saturday spurned Mr Deve Gowda's plea to him to return to the party. Thereafter, he met Mr Rao.

According to an Intelligence Bureau source, there was a special cell in Kidwai Bhavan manned by two specially deputed officers trained in telephone tapping.

India: Telephone Taps on Political Leaders Reported

BK0508144996 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English
4 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The personal telephone lines of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Congress leaders considered close to him are being tapped by the intelligence agencies on the orders of the Prime Minister's Office.

All three telephones at Mr Rao's residence two listed and one unlisted are being monitored by the government. The two listed numbers are 3015550 and 3794078. We are not printing the unlisted number to protect what little privacy now obtains to it.

The Asian Age has obtained a full list of the telephone numbers of political leaders which are being tapped. The order is believed to have been given within the last fortnight.

Among them are the former home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, the former external affairs minister, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, and former welfare minister Sitaram Kesri.

Other political leaders whose telephones are tapped are Mr R.K. Dhawan, Mr Matang Sinh, Mr Suresh Kalmadi, Mr Dwivendra Dwivedi, Ms Margaret Alva, Mr Janardhan Poojary, Mr B.P. Maurya, Ms Najma Heptullah, Mr V. Narayanswamy, Mr S.S. Ahluwalia and Mr P.M. Sayeed. All of them have been either ministers in the Rao government or are in key party positions, apart from Ms Heptullah.

The fact that Mr Heptullah is the deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha and therefore has a non-partisan status has not deterred the government.

The telephone lines of some officials considered close to Mr Narasimha Rao have also been tapped.

The only criteria that has been applied in the illegal decision to place wiretaps on the telephones is proximity to Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, who is being viewed by the government as the biggest threat to its continuance in office as an increasing number of Janata dissidents have been meeting Mr Rao.

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, who has just resigned from the Janata Dal, was among those who called on Mr Narasimha Rao on Saturday [3 August].

Not a single leader of the Congress who is against Mr Rao is being tapped. There is no wiretap on the telephones of Mr Sharad Pawar, Mr K.Karunakaran, Mr Rajesh Pilot,

Mr Balram Jakhar or Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad, Congress Working Committee members who have at one time or another demanded the resignation of Mr Rao. The dissidents have allegedly reached an agreement with Mr Deve Gowda to join the government once they have been able to replace Mr Rao as party president.

The Asian Age has already broken the story about plain clothes intelligence policemen being posted at 9 Moti Lal Nehru Marg, where Mr Rao has moved after vacating the official residence of the Prime Minister for Mr Deve Gowda.

Mr Gowda on Saturday morning called on Mr Rao and spent more than an hour with him. He explained that he was not aware of any decision to order surveillance at Mr Rao's residence, and that if this had happened it had been done at a junior level, without clearance.

Wiretapping has long been condemned by United Front leaders as unethical and immoral. No less a leader than Mr Ramakrishna Hegde was forced to resign as chief minister when it was alleged that he had ordered wiretaps on his political opponents.

On more than one occasion, more than one government has given a solemn pledge that it would not indulge in tapping telephones, a practice that totally maims the spirit of democracy.

Mr Deve Gowda's government has however chosen to indulge in this practice not against its declared enemies, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], but against Congress leaders whose support is essential to its survival.

Iran

Iran: British Muslim Leader on U.S. Efforts at 'Hegemony'

LD0508130096 Tehran IRNA in English
0607 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA — Everything the U.S. claims to stand for is just icing up the cake for deception, it never stands for anything: the only value it pursues is self-interest, president of the Britain's Muslim parliament Muhammad Ghayasuddin said.

In an interview with the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed on Monday [5 August], he commented on the U.S. claims accusing Iran of terrorism, adding the U.S. calls everybody who threatens its illegal interests and anyone who challenges its hegemony or fights for liberation terrorist.

When the Muslim nations stand up for the liberation or for restoration of their rights they are called terrorists just because they want liberations, they want their legitimate rights and they want to live as the West itself survived, he further underlined.

"The main problem is that the Westerners do not want their dominance to be undermined and the Islamic revolution has sent a very powerful message to all the oppressed people of the world."

On U.S. Congress decision to tighten sanctions against the Islamic republic, Ghayasuddin stated that the Islamic revolution has withstood a great challenge opposing the U.S. hegemony in the world. That is the reason why they will do everything possible to see that the Islamic revolution does not become powerful and does not go out and influence others.

Commenting on situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said Bosnians are Slavs, they are white and blue-eyed, and the Serbs and Croats are also Slavs but the only difference is that the Croats are Catholics, the Serbs are orthodox and the Bosnians are Muslims. That is why the West allowed the Muslims, even their innocent women and children, to be butchered.

Ghayasuddin who attended the 9th international conference on Islamic unity (August 1-3), described such conferences as very useful. It provides the Muslims from all over the world with the opportunity to come and meet and to work on the issue they share, he concluded.

Iran: Embassy in Riyadh Condemns U.S. Anti-Iran Statements

*LD0508195596 Tehran IRNA in English
1747 GMT 5 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug. 5, IRNA — Iranian Embassy in Riyadh on Monday [5 August] condemned the baseless anti-Iran allegations of the U.S. officials and praised the good and friendly relations which existed between Iran and the Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, the embassy said that the investigation of the Saudi officials would prove the falsehood of the U.S. accusations against Iran.

The U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry in a hasty statement while visiting the Middle East associated the truck explosion in the U.S. military base in Dhahran to Iran.

The statement said the U.S. official retracted his hasty statement because the Saudi officials did not confirm it.

"The U.S. defence secretary once again committed a blunder which were previously repeated by the U.S. administration in the past and embarked on escalating tension by sowing the seeds of discord and dissension in the region, without first taking the 'reality and factuality' into account and secondly even thinking of giving some consideration to the expectations of the people, the governments and the nations in the Persian Gulf region," read the communique.

The Saudi press did not take heed of Perry's statement and they have criticized the U.S. policy in the Middle East as problematic for the regional countries.

Iran: Velayati—U.S. 'Adventurist' Policies 'Dangerous'

*LD0608184996 Tehran IRIB Television Second
Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 6 Aug 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a speech today at a gathering of Iran's ambassadors and heads of missions abroad, Foreign Minister ['Ali Akbar] Velayati referred to America's support for the Zionist regime's state terrorism and that country's terrorist actions against Iran. He said: America is one of the originators and propagators of state and international terrorism. Undoubtedly it is not qualified to judge and enforce the law in that important international issue.

Referring to the increase in America's adventurist policies in recent days he stressed: Those policies will have a dangerous effect on the future of international relations. Those effects will definitely not be confined to countries currently targeted by America.

He said: The U.S. Congress, with its hostile actions in ratifying laws which regard as permissible CIA interference in the internal affairs of other countries, has actively interfered in Iran's domestic affairs. That testifies to America's unilateral and hegemonic policies and that action is rejected decisively by the international community.

Iran: Velayati—U.S. Not Qualified To Pass Judgement on Others

*LD0708095496 Tehran IRNA in English
1918 GMT 6 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today called the U.S. Administration as a real motivator and a true sponsor of the state and international terrorism.

Addressing ambassadors and the heads of the foreign delegations in Tehran, he added that without a speck of doubt the United States is neither qualified nor competent to pass any judgement nor has it been internationally empowered with jurisdiction to execute orders in this important international area.

"The U. S. Congress passed a hostile measure that would allow the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to intervene or interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries, adding that it is this congress measure which has practically facilitated the United States interference in the internal affairs of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran," pointed out Velayati.

"This is a dangerous phenomenon pursued by Washington in the formulation of policies which would empower the Congress of the United States and further give it legitimacy to pass inactments for 'the unlawful acts' against the sovereignty of other nations, adding that it is a clear indication of the United States hegemonistic and unilateral line of policy," underlined the Iranian foreign minister.

Velayati indicated the defeat of the United States in persuading its allies and other nations demonstrates that those nations would not bend to and outright rejected inactments passed by the congress and were thinking of the way to counter the unlawful and unilateral measure of the U.S. Congress.

The foreign minister pointed out the United States has been stepping up adventurist policy and this hostile policy is aimed at the countries which hold totally different point of views and approach from those of the United States.

He stressed that such hostile policies would have serious repercussion and detrimental influence on international relations.

The foreign minister stated that the allegation that Iran was actively supporting international terrorism working to sabotage the Middle East peace process and trying to obtain mass destruction weapons were but baseless, irresponsible, and unaccountable accusation against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He further pointed out that the United States in threatening to use military force against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran is contrary to all codes, norms and practices internationally observed as well as the United Nations' charter.

Velayati said that such a clamor was being raised at a time when the presidential elections in the U.S. was entering a sensitive phase and that the campaign was meant to win the votes of the people.

Iran's foreign minister then underlined that Iran itself has been a frequent victim of terrorism and a clear indicator of such an instance was the downing of a passenger plane by an American fleet in Iran's airspace and territorial waters of the Persian Gulf which claimed the lives of over 270 innocent passengers including children and women.

The United States supported a state sponsored terrorism by backing the Zionist regime which directed these acts of terrorism against Iranian citizens living both inside the country or in abroad. He added these sworn terrorists have the right of moving freely in some of the European countries whose free movements, the U.S. State Department has confirmed.

"Fighting terrorism through emptys irresponsible and unfounded allegations is not feasible and achievable," adding that, "Iran severely condemned any form of terrorism and that the Islamic Republic of Iran believed in finding an international solution with the help of the international community to remedy this ill," stated the Iranian foreign minister.

At the end of his speech Velayati concluded by saying that Iran has a proposal for bringing about a world mechanism which could effectively counter and uproot terrorism as a whole.

Iran: Editorial Wants Army Alert To U.S. 'Military Adventurism'

*LD0508121196 Tehran IRNA in English
0914 GMT 5 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA — Commenting on the U.S. embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran, an English daily Monday [5 August] said that the new law manifests President Bill Clinton's ever-increasing desperation.

'IRAN NEWS' further referred to various setbacks received by Clinton from his European allies in different meetings where they made it clear that they were against isolating Iran and would continue their relations with the Islamic republic.

Considering the absolute failure of the U.S. to isolate and weaken Iran, there are two options open to the White House, it said adding, it could indulge in military adventurism against Tehran.

The level of alertness of the armed forces of the Islamic republic should be upgraded to give a befitting response to the probable aggressor, the editorial suggested.

"One should expect all kinds of irrationalities and absurdities from a U.S. President in an election year."

Washington could also try to make a regional country, or countries, a scapegoat and blame them for falsely accusing the Islamic republic, it said hoping that no regional country would be a party to U.S. dirty tricks.

Iran: Rial Reportedly 'Unaffected' by U.S. Sanctions

*LD0508131496 Tehran IRNA in English
1116 GMT 5 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Aug. 5, IRNA — The black market exchange rate of the Iranian rial has remained unaffected following the passage of secondary boycott legislation by the U.S. Congress on July 23.

Black market dealers in London, Tehran and the Persian Gulf are reported to be quoting 4,200 rials to the U.S. dollar, the same level since the central bank, Markazi, intervened more than a year ago following its collapse after earlier U.S. sanctions.

According to Middle East Economic Digest, business people in Tehran are accrediting the rial's better performance to several factors and that direct parallels cannot be drawn with May 1995 when there was a disproportionate effect on the currency market.

Since then, Markazi and the government are said to have restored some of their credibility with public confidence in their policies.

Other important factors in maintaining a strong rial are the enforcement of hard currency repatriation rules and a determined campaign against smuggling.

The secondary boycott legislation, which was due to be signed by President Clinton Monday, has provoked threatens of retaliatory measures from U.S. trading partners, who have unanimously condemned Washington's attempts to impose its laws on other countries.

European companies, most likely to be involved, have set up a working group to coordinate counter-moves and are scheduled to meet early this month to look at what "visible action" can be taken.

Firms, who face punishment for investing in Iran's oil development, are also separately exploring ways of circumventing the U.S. extra-territorial legislation.

American companies have further warned that the legislation would be counter-productive by harming U.S. interests and provoking trade wars with its allies.

Iran: Daily Criticizes D'Amato Bill; Notes European Concern

*NC0708081996 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
27 Jul 96 pp 1, 16*

[Commentary by Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh: "The International Complaints Against American Policies"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A few days after the approval of the D'Amato Bill by the U.S. Congress, the American Government sees itself facing angry international complaints. On Tuesday [23 July], the American Congress approved the bill on sanctions against Iran, Libya, and companies dealing with them. On the basis of this bill, companies that invest more than \$40 million on oil and gas industries in Iran and Libya will face punitive measures by the U.S. Government!

America's political game has started a serious and strong phase in the economic rivalry in the capitalist bloc. West European commercial-economic companies and public opinion are extremely worried about this unconventional government intervention in world trade. Such concerns can also be seen among the American companies and public as well. [passage omitted]

A spokesman for the European Union [EU] said the D'Amato Bill will not be accepted and that Europe will take reciprocal steps in order to defend the interests of the 15 EU members. All European companies, first and foremost German companies, will suffer heavy damage because of the American bill. Italy and France are expressing even more concern than Germany, and this is not without reason. On the basis of figures published by the chairman of the European Trade Commission, in 1994 the EU imported more than 480 million tonnes of oil from Iran and Libya. This figure increased after last year's incidents and when the American companies were forced to halt their oil purchases from Iran, when European companies replaced their American rivals in buying oil from Iran and investing in the oil industry in Iran.

Italy alone imports more than 260,000 barrels of oil from Iran daily. Libya and Iran rank first and second on

the list of oil exporters to Italy. Considering that in the first two months of the current [Iranian] year [beginning 21 March 1996], Iranian oil sales to Italy increased more than 69 percent, Rome is more enraged than any other European country over the D'Amato Bill.

France's "Total France Company" which has started investing extensively in the Sirri oil fields in Iran, is another of the major targets of the American sanctions. The French Foreign Ministry spokesman was among the first to issue a statement condemning the D'Amato Bill. A few days after its approval, the bill was condemned by Russia, France, Germany, Italy, Britain and the European Union, as well as by Mexico and Canada — America's major trade partners in the regional NAFTA pact. Thus, if the D'Amato Bill, like the Helms-Burton Bill on Cuba, is not suspended, Washington will have to respond to the concern expressed by the American public and companies and to the reaction of its European allies. This reaction may take both the form of antisancction regulations in the EU or of complaints filed by European companies against Washington in European courts.

Iran: Commentary Sees D'Amato Law as 'Isolator' of U.S.

*LD0708113096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1002 GMT 7 Aug 96*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Greetings once again dear listeners. Let me draw your attention to today's political commentaries.

Following extensive protests from France, Germany, Britain, Russia, Canada, and many other countries, the governments of China, Japan, and Australia have now also expressed their open and decisive opposition to the D'Amato law. Thus, a law that had been designed by the United States to isolate Iran and Libya has become an isolator of that country itself, such that, according to all the international analysts, opposition to unilateral attempts by the United States to seize the initiative in the international arena has never been seen on such a scale.

In fact, the measure taken by the United States has so unified the ranks of very different countries, possessing a range of motives and beliefs, around the axis of defending international principles and regulations, and free trade that the White House and the people behind the drawing up of the United States' unilateral sanctions have been totally taken by surprise.

Nevertheless, it does not seem likely that such an extensive opposition will lead Clinton and his collaborators to reconsider their unprincipled positions, which will endanger that country's interests in many parts of the world, because, in the opinion of analysts, Clinton faces difficult domestic political circumstances in which his retreat from Washington's mindless positions will bring about his defeat in the U.S. presidential elections.

In addition to this, conditions that have been brought about by a number of domestic terrorist incidents in the United States, threatening that country's internal vital security, have made Clinton decide to overcome internal threats by creating an international crisis — extensive though it may be — which may endanger his country's vital interests. This, in itself, reveals the depth of the domestic crisis in that country, the resolution of which by transferring it outside its own borders shows how great a priority and importance is attached to domestic issues and problems over the maintenance of its international position.

However, would it not be better if Washington's authorities — instead of destabilizing international peace and security, and disrupting the process of cooperation and free trade between nations — addressed their domestic problems directly? A question which will, undoubtedly, be answered in the negative by American officials, because the satanic nature of the leader of global arrogance dictates the sowing of discord and turmoil rather than trying to resolve and quell them.

Iran: Daily—Strong Economy To Bring U.S. 'to Its Knees'

LD0708132096 *Tehran IRNA in English*
0730 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA — Commenting on the European reaction to the anti-Iran law signed by the U.S. President Bill Clinton, an English daily Wednesday [7 August] wrote that for the first time since the end of the cold war, Europe with one voice refused to accept the U.S. dictated policies.

As far as Iran is concerned, it should not waste its politico-economic leverage in countering the U.S. bankrupt policy, 'IRAN NEWS' stated adding, the Islamic republic must do all to keep its house in order by investing more in its oil and gas industries.

"We should emphasize the strengthening of our economy as a best means to counter U.S. adventurism such as the extra-territorial sanctions imposed last year in June and enhanced on Monday [5 August], because these moves are bound to backfire on the U.S. Administration and provide another disillusionment for President Clinton."

"We should note that the basic objective of the U.S. adventurism is to weaken our economy," the editorial underlined concluding, "but if properly planned, the same economy will bring the same America to its knees."

Iran: Commentary Says U.S. Retreating Deeper Into Saudi Desert

LD0708123096 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1006 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the agreement between the United States and [Saudi] Arabia for the transfer of American military forces from Riyadh and Dhahran to a base in one of the Arabian deserts, Washington has announced that approximately 1,200 American troops, including engineers, specialists and security forces, have left for Saudi Arabia to prepare the new base.

Announcing this fact, the U.S. War Ministry [as heard] tried to justify the presence of American forces in the Persian Gulf and stressed the need for maintaining its forces in that region. The redeployment of American forces in Arabia, which is taking place for the sake of ensuring those forces' security and preventing possible attacks from opponents, is a response to domestic criticism inside the United States, as well as a message to groups opposed to the American presence in Arabia.

The American military base in Dhahran witnessed a horrific explosion in the month of Tir [June-July], in the course of which 19 American military men were killed. Before that, there was an attack on the center at which American forces were based in Riyadh, killing six Americans. Following these attacks, opposition intensified in the United States to the presence of American military men in other countries. In response to this opposition, the U.S. Defense Ministry [as heard] — while trying to justify the presence of American forces by stressing the importance of the Persian Gulf — tried, with the adoption of new security arrangements, to reassure critics that the forces were safe from any further attacks.

On the other hand, the United States is trying, with its emphasis on maintaining its presence in Persian Gulf countries, to convey the message that attacks on American forces have not yielded the desired ends of groups opposed to the American presence in the region and that the United States is determined to maintain its position in any way possible.

After the Dhahran bombing, some analysts likened it to the explosion at the American marine base in Beirut,

which led to their departure from Lebanon. In view of this and in view of the strong criticism directed at the dispatch of American forces to the Persian Gulf, the issue of the unnecessary nature of the American presence in the region attracted more attention. This was described as a success for the groups attacking U.S. military men and a weakening of the position of Clinton's administration. This is why American officials have tried to undo this climate of disquiet by rejecting requests for the departure of American forces and demonstrating their will to maintain their presence in the region.

William Perry has said in this regard: It would be a great mistake for American forces to leave the Persian Gulf, because this would be seen as a victory for the small groups attacking American military men. Although the United States has tried to ensure the security of its forces and reduce the pressure of criticism by redeploying the forces, observers believe that fencing off American military men in Arabian deserts will not only prove impossible, but will bring about greater problems for the United States by creating dissatisfaction among them.

Iran: U.S. Confronts Allies in Effort To Make Iran 'Surrender'

LD0608194596 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Unattributed Commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. President, under the pretext of fighting international terrorism, has threatened to punish foreign firms that invest in the oil industries of Iran and Libya.

The issues of U.S. sanctions against Iran, the poisonous propaganda on human rights violations [in Iran], support for terrorism, efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and opposition to the peace process in the Middle East, have all been tested during the presidency of the Republicans and the Democrats. There is, however, no need to present evidence on the U.S.-sponsored terrorism against various nations and governments. It is clear that the U.S. government, by ignoring the countless victims of its policy, is even prepared to face serious trade and legal confrontation with its allies in pursuit of its objective to force Iran to surrender. We should bear in mind that the heat of the U.S. enthusiasm to confront Islamic Iran cannot even be compared with its confrontation against the former Soviet Communists. That is, the U.S. relations were never strained with its European allies over the issue of choosing a method to confront the former Soviet Union.

On the occasion of the Government Week last year, the esteemed leader [Ayatollah Khamene'i] mentioned that

thanks to the independent policy pursued by the Islamic Iran, over one billion people [Muslims] are opposing the aggressive policies of Washington. It must be said openly that the ruling faction in America, be it the Republicans or the Democrats, are strongly influenced by Zionism. They, therefore, intend to destroy the hope of the Iranian nation by seeking such excuses as fighting terrorism. During the presidency of [Ronald] Reagan, the U.S. war minister [defense secretary] blatantly pointed out that the root of the Iranian nation must be destroyed by fire. This is a comment made by a responsible official of a state which claims to support freedom and human rights and considers itself as the standard-bearer of the struggle against terrorism.

Iran: Rajavi Complains to UN Over Tehran 'Missile Attack'

NC0608081696 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0500 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The office of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] in Baghdad has issued a statement on the frustration of the clerical regime's missile attack on a Mojahedin base. Leader of the National Iranian Resistance Council [NIRC], brother mojahed Mas'ud Rajavi, has sent a cable to the UN secretary general and members of the Security Council, calling on them to condemn this terrorist attack, and requesting that the Security Council take the necessary measures against the Iranian regime's terroristic religious dictatorship. The NIRC leader said the abortive missile attack resulted from the regime's helplessness vis-a-vis the Iranian resistance's recent progresses on the domestic and international fields, especially since the very enthusiastic welcome extended by 25,000 compatriots to the chosen president of the Iranian resistance in London.

[In its 0400 GMT newscast, heard with extremely poor reception, the Voice of Mohahed in Persian carries the text of the above statement, dated 5 August 1996. The statement says "copies were sent to the Iraqi president; the Iraqi deputy chairman; the Iraqi ministers of foreign affairs, interior, and [word indistinct]; the UN [word indistinct]; the president and members of the UN Security Council; the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; the chairman of the International Red Cross Committee; and [words indistinct]."]

Iran: 'Secret War' Reportedly Launched Against Iraq

JN0608181296 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic
29 Jul 96 p 8

["Exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the Cold War climate that cast a shadow over the relationship between the two giants for decades and ended with the collapse of one of them, will cast a similar shadow over the Middle Eastern capitals, which are burning slowly on the hot tin roof of dramatic regional developments.

This prognosis is confirmed by the developments taking place behind the scenes, most notable among them is the fact that some capitals have resorted to intelligence wars instead of the open wars they used to wage against one another.

Under the circumstances, the logic of account-settling seems to prevail and the notions of expansionism and preoccupations of national sovereignty to have taken a back seat. These wars use totally different weapons and have numerous diverse objectives.

The reports received by AL-HADATH confirm that Tehran is in the forefront of the region's capitals in undertaking such acts since a special ministry for intelligence was established when the new regime came to power in the country. This new ministry was assigned the responsibility of spying on neighboring states and supplying the Revolutionary Guards with intelligence data. The idea was for the Islamic Revolutionary Guard to direct extremist groups in different parts of the world as part of a central plan to force Western capitals to deal with the Iranian regime as a regional player within the system of international relations.

It is clear that Tehran began to switch its attention away from the Gulf following the abortive coup attempt in the Bahraini capital and the explosion that rocked al-Khubar in Saudi Arabia, resulting in rapid developments that attracted the attention of political analysts and those concerned with terrorism.

The leaked information confirms that Iranian attention is turning to Baghdad, which is expected to witness intelligence activity and possibly a chain of explosions to be carried out by the Ministry of Intelligence and the Revolutionary Guard groups through agents specially recruited by Tehran for this purpose.

Information received by AL-HADATH indicates that implementation of this plan has begun in northern Iraq and is expanding to cover different areas of the country, which is facing a foreign economic embargo,

internal security disturbances, and deteriorating living conditions.

In the middle of July, Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani toured the country's western provinces. A few days later ordnance-laden Iranian trucks were seen headed in the direction of Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. The weapons included different types of rockets and launchers, which raised questions among political figures in the area who did not want to anger Tehran, but at the same time feared that these Iranian actions would result in more tension in those areas. The fears of the Kurdish officials who followed these developments were enhanced by the influx of Iranian security and military officials into these areas. This indicated that something might happen and that it would be difficult to avoid its serious consequences.

Among the field officers who moved to northern Iraq were commanders of Hamzah and Ramadan camps run by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard; namely, Brigadier General Mohammad Karmi, Brigadier General Javad Ja'fari, Brigadier General 'Abdol Reza Maskari — commander of Nasr Camp in Naqadeh — and Brigadier General Shela'i, commander of Zafar Camp in Kermanshah.

The information leaked to AL-HADATH confirms that these Revolutionary Guard and intelligence personnel held meetings with tribal leaders south of al-Sulaymaniyah and tempted them with promises in order to win their cooperation. Talk is going on within narrow circles in Iraqi Kurdistan about terrorist operations being planned by Iranian authorities to be carried in Kurdistan itself and in other Iraqi territory. This is based on what took place at the meetings between the Revolutionary Guard commanders and al-Sulaymaniyah tribal chiefs. Iraqi Kurds are also talking about reconnaissance activity and monitoring and photographic equipment being used by Iranian intelligence agents based in Kifri and Klar.

In discussing Iran's intelligence activity in northern Iraq, informed Iraqi political circles pause long at the subject of the Tehran-Karbala' highway, which Rafsanjani spoke about during his visit to the western Iranian city of Hamadan. This highway, which the Iranian president described as very important, will pass through Hamadan, Kermanshah, Ilam, and Qasr-e Shirin and end at the Iraqi border.

Meanwhile, Iranian opposition circles do not hide their suspicion that they will be the target of the activities of the Iranian intelligence effort in Iraq. AL-HADATH sources pointed out that the undoubted successes that the Iranian opposition has achieved on the political and

social fronts had left the Iranian Government in a state of fear.

What aroused the interest of those following the dossiers of the secret war is that Baghdad is not paying great attention to Iranian activities in the north. Numerous diplomatic circles speak about intelligence activities being carried out by Iraqis in some Gulf states. This interest follows leaked reports about secret visits made by an Iraqi intelligence colonel called Hatif 'Abd to Saudi Arabia. He is known to be one of the few who participated in preparing and planning the invasion of Kuwait. He visited Kuwait as part of the initial preparation for the invasion.

Hatif 'Abd was in charge of contacting 'Ala' Husayn in the Kuwaiti Government that was formed by President Saddam Husayn a few days after the Iraqi forces' entry into Kuwait. He is known to be competent in clandestine war affairs and currently receives orders from Qusayy Saddam Husayn.

It is believed that Hatif 'Abd has made two visits to Saudi Arabia in the last five years. He entered the Saudi territory through the Yemeni-Saudi border, which Sanaa and Riyadh find difficult to control. The secrecy shrouding the activities of the Iranian intelligence and guards is also shrouding Iraqi intelligence activities in the Gulf states. Western intelligence services are closely watching these activities.

Iran: Commentary Hits Role of Taleban, Pakistan in Afghan Crisis

NC0608075496 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 29 Jul 96 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The Afghanistan Crisis and Ten Necessities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Afghan state forces have started their simultaneous heavy military attacks on the Taleban Group in the two provinces of Nimruz and Herat. These forces, which also include the guerrilla force of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, have inflicted heavy blows on the Taleban Group so far and have taken a considerable number of members of this group captive. The joint operations by Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Rabbani's Jam'iat-e Eslami in these areas continue and are given tremendous support by the people there. In these operations, one city in Nimruz province known as Barakcheh [name as published] has been purged of Taleban forces.

The joint operations by the state forces of Afghanistan against the Taleban Group are the first major operations by these forces since the formation of the coalition between the two significant political parties of that

country; and since they are taking place against the Taleban Group, they have received the support of the Afghan people in both regions. The Talebans are a criminal, cold-hearted, bigoted, and detested group of the Afghan nation. This group, which emerged on Afghanistan's political scene in the fall of 1373 [1994], has not participated in any of the peace efforts in that country. On the contrary, its fingerprints can be clearly seen at all the scenes of war and crime. Since the achievement of a type of unity between Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Rabbani's Jami'at-e Eslami in Khordad [month ending 20 June], which became the basis for the political structure of the country, the Talebans' sole activity has been to shell Kabul and to drench the people of Kabul in blood in a bid to prevent this unity from taking shape. This comes at a time when most of the political groups in Afghanistan have come to support this political unity during the past two months. This phenomenon — that is, the isolation of the Talebans coupled with the fact that Pakistan's supporting role for this group on the political scene has lost its drive — has plunged the Talebans into the backwash of their own short-sighted and medieval policies and have blocked all avenues to break out of the impasse. This is the inevitable fate of any group that ignores the interests of its own people and favors the interests of foreigners over the aspirations and interests of its own people.

The civil war in Afghanistan, which at the current juncture only the Taleban Group wants to protract, has led to the deaths and homelessness of many civilians and the destruction of a large part of the country's potentials and assets over the past four years. In order to quench the flames of this war—which is a serious threat to regional stability as well as international peace and security — Afghanistan's neighbors, specifically the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as the United Nations and other international organizations, should exert more serious efforts. In other words, the search for peace in war-stricken Afghanistan is like two sides of a coin—one side being regional efforts and the other being efforts by the United Nations.

At a quick glance, we can see that by taking ten necessary factors into consideration and acting accordingly we can pave the necessary way for tranquility and political, social, and economic stability in Afghanistan. These necessary factors are:

1. The need to safeguard Afghanistan's territorial integrity and independence;
2. The need to solve Afghanistan's problems internally. In other words, inter-Afghan talks are a good option for solving the crisis in that country;

3. The need to stop military conflicts as the first step toward the establishment of peace;
4. The need to extend Afghan rule over the entire country;
5. The need for assistance from Afghanistan's neighbors in establishing peace;
6. The need for extensive popular participation in the various developments of Afghanistan;
7. The need for continued efforts by the United Nations to solve the Afghanistan problem;
8. The need to continue foreign humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan;
9. The need to stop sending arms to the groups inside Afghanistan;
10. The need to pay attention to elections at various phases, and then to respect the people's true and free votes.

Iran: Lebanese Hizballah Said Arabs' 'True Leaders'

NC0508200896 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 30 Jul 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Lessons for the Arab Compromisers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Southern Lebanon is no longer safe for us and Israel should withdraw from this area. This was stated by the Zionist War Minister General Yitzhaq Mordechai, who added that the anti-Israeli attacks by Hizballah in southern Lebanon have inflicted heavy damages on the Israeli soldiers and that the security zone is no longer safe for the Israeli servicemen. He added that Netanyahu's government should thus approve the bill on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

This is the first time that an official of Netanyahu's government has spoken so overtly about the need for the Zionist army's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. But it is not very difficult to understand what objectives the warmongering Likud faction with its criminal record pursues by such statements, some of the dimensions of which are revealed by a first glance at the situation. The first point is the Tel Aviv regime's efforts to reduce the existing psychological pressure on the armed forces deployed in southern Lebanon. The intensity of the attacks by Hizballah on the security zone and the successful ambush operations by the Islamic Resistance combatants are so vast that the occupying forces in southern Lebanon see that they are the victims of Hizballah ambushes and are thus living a nightmare. Although reports on the critical situation of the Zionist army in southern Lebanon do not leak to the outside world too much, the existence of psychological problems in the so-called security zone in the south have increased so much that every so often they lead to suicide by the occupying sol-

diers. And this has weakened the morale of the rest of the Israeli forces deployed in southern Lebanon. Therefore, the Netanyahu government wants to encourage the Israeli soldiers by suggesting that apparently their withdrawal from southern Lebanon is imminent. Let us not forget that the extent of the anti-occupation operations in southern Lebanon is so vast that the resistance forces inflict heavy blows on the Zionists almost every day; and, of course, in some cases they also result in the martyrdom or wounding of the Islamic Resistance forces as well.

The explicit comment by the Israeli war minister has been made with the objective of spreading doubts among the Islamic Resistance forces as to whether it is necessary for them to continue their breathtaking combat or not. It is an effort to convince them that apparently there is no need for combat any longer since the Zionists themselves are thinking of withdrawing from southern Lebanon and that therefore, naturally, there is no need to inflict more blows on the Zionists at the cost of the martyrdom of the combatants of Islamic Resistance.

Of course the Zionists want to spread doubts among the Lebanese Hizballah forces. But the serious, strong, and alert reaction by Hizballah has shown that they have read the hand of the occupiers and have clearly stated that they will not stop their breathtaking combat against the Zionists until the full withdrawal of the occupiers.

The third point [as published] is the Tel Aviv regime's efforts to spread discord between Syria and Lebanon. The occupiers hope that by solving the problem of southern Lebanon, they will have settled their accounts with Lebanon and that Syria will be left standing alone in the scene of combat until the accounts with it, too, are settled. Damascus' stand on the need to regain the Golan has enraged Tel Aviv and both Peres and Netanyahu want to avenge Syria. Efforts to isolate Syria and to spread discord between Syria and Lebanon have always been something that has never worked out. But the Zionists hope to test their chance in this as well.

Despite all this, propounding the need for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon has amazing lessons to teach to the compromising Arab front and, in turn, is considered as a new chapter in the history of anti-occupation struggles in the region. Let us not forget that the political haggling of the compromisers have not helped them to gain any noteworthy concessions from the savage occupiers. On the contrary, they have, in practice, always been forced to grant concessions in order to prove their good will and to be trusted by the Zionists.

The bitter experiences of the Cairo regime, of King Husayn, and of Mubarak [as published] are experiences of the failure of the compromising Arabs' front in this. But the successes scored by the Islamic Resistance forces in Lebanon constitute a valuable experience and shine forth like a perpetual pattern. Everyone remembers how, during its attack on Lebanon, the Zionist army did not face the least bit of resistance from the Lebanese army and that even the Phalangists helped the occupiers as Israel's fifth column in Lebanon. Not one Arab country or nation was prepared to rush to the aid of the Lebanese people and Government; and we saw how Israel occupied a large part of Lebanese territory in a matter of days and how it even placed Beirut under siege.

If we want to compare the incidents in Lebanon with the experiences gained from past Arab-Israeli wars, possibly the entire territory of Lebanon would have been under Zionist occupation today. However, a number of brave Muslim youths rose to save the Islamic territory of Lebanon and to hoist the banner of a bloody war against the occupiers. Even the military support of NATO's interfering multi-national forces led by America were unable to be considered as a beneficial help to the savage occupiers and to extinguish the fire of the popular struggle against the Zionist forces in Lebanon. It was as though Israel's war machine had been conquered for the first time in contemporary history by a "popular" and not an "organized and regular army" and then forced to disgracefully retreat. Today the same brave combatants of Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon have made the occupiers tremble with fear and have rubbed the muzzles of the Israeli generals in the dirt without substantial number of arms and men.

Although the warmongering Likud faction ignores the compromising Arab regimes and tramples on previous pacts, it feels incapable in front of the brave Muslim youths in southern Lebanon and disgracefully speaks about the need for retreat. Of course, if Hizballah does not continue its struggles alertly and bravely, the Zionists may be enticed to continue their occupying presence in southern Lebanon. But a government that completely ignores the compromising Arabs is expressing weakness in front of the brave youths of Islamic Resistance in Lebanon. And this is extremely significant and amazing.

Heroic Lebanon with its brave youths offers great lessons to the Arab world and to the despicable front of compromisers. Mubarak, with all his abjectness, is trying in vain to portray himself as the "leader of the Arab world". The leaders of the Arab world are the anonymous brave youths who continue the pitiless war against the savage occupiers in southern Lebanon. With

their shouts of God is great, they make the Zionist occupiers tremble with fear and make the blood in the veins of the youths throughout the Arab world and the Islamic world boil. The combatants of Lebanon's Islamic Resistance are the true leaders of the Arab world today. Tomorrow the breath-taking anti-Zionist struggles will show how the Arab nations have chosen as their pattern for life and struggles those who have been able to crush the savage occupiers on their own and who have taught others their Islamic zeal with their loud cries of God is great.

Iran: Majles Speaker, Foreign Minister To Visit Oman

LD0508124696 Tehran IRNA in English
0800 GMT 05 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA — Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati are scheduled to visit Oman to discuss expansion of Tehran-Muscat ties, reported the English-language daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Monday [5 August].

Iranian ambassador to Muscat, Siavash Zargar Ya'qubi, told the paper that the Majles speaker will visit Oman in early autumn, however, he did not disclose the date of Velayati's trip. Turning to the common aspects between the two countries, the ambassador said that potentials for expanding economic, cultural and political ties between the two countries are "forthcoming". The two countries are cooperating in urban development and the Iranian Ministry of Housing and Urban Development has completed a number of construction projects in the sultanate.

Referring to the high potentials for cooperation between private companies of the two countries in various fields, he deplored that opportunities for mutual cooperation have not been properly explored by the two sides.

Asked about Oman's relations with the Zionist regime and their effects on Iran-Oman ties, he said "we do not expect our neighbouring countries to maintain close relations with the common enemy of all Muslim states."

Oman's relations with Israel should not hinder us from having close relations with Muscat, he said, adding reducing Iran's level of relations with Oman on account of the latter's close tie with Israel would enable the Zionist regime to hurt Iran's relations with a Muslim country (Oman) while at the same time improving its ties with that country.

Ya'qubi reiterated Iran's policy to expand relations with all world countries except the Zionist regime and the U.S.

Referring to close ties between Iran and Oman, he said Tehran-Muscat friendship was tested during the eight years of Iraqi-imposed war when the only country in the Persian Gulf that tried to remain neutral was Oman. Oman also tried several times to mediate between Iran and Iraq, concluded the ambassador.

Iran: Paper Urges Islamic Unity To Confront 'Arrogance'

NC0608083696 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Jul 96 pp 1, 10

[Editorial: "Islam: Fulcrum of Unity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tomorrow, 12 Rabi' al-Awwal, marks the first day of Unity Week. Each year Unity Week is marked between 12 Rabi' al-Awwal — the day marked by the Sunnis as the Prophet's birthday — and 17 Rabi' al-Awwal—the day marked by the Shiites as the Prophet's birthday; and various celebrations and ceremonies are held throughout the Islamic country of Iran, all of which emphasize the need for harmony and unity among the followers of the various Islamic sects.

The fulcrum of the Islamic ummah's unity is the religion of Islam, which links all of them regardless of race and language. Emphasizing unity at the current juncture is more necessary than ever before because the awakening of the Muslim nations and the increasing adherence to Islamic principles and ideals have paved the way for the people to confront the hegemonistic satan and its puppets and for Islam to become the superior power.

Meanwhile, the daily-increasing ebb in the power of hegemonistic and world-devouring governments heralds the fact that if the Muslim nations try hard enough, they can rub the muzzle of the world-devourers and the hegemonists in dirt and prevent their pillage. The victory of the Islamic Revolution, which introduced the rule of religious values in this century, put an end to the century of colonialist domination and marked the beginning of the peoples' control of their fate. This was what His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the greatest man of this century, was able to start; and everything is now pointing to the fact that it is being fulfilled.

The enemies of Islam and those with ill-intentions toward the Islamic ummah are not idly sitting back. They are resorting to any means possible in order to prevent the practical exercise of unity among the Muslim nations. Arrogance's propaganda trumpets harmonize with the discordant plots of the Zionists and their regional hirelings, who don various masks and are constantly trying to prevent harmony among the Muslims. They know that the unity of the Islamic ummah will lead to the creation of a power that will seriously threaten the interests of arrogance.

Fortunately, in Islamic Iran practical steps to achieve unity are increasing and their results are gradually being seen. While extending greetings on Unity Week, we pray to Almighty God for harmony and accord among all Muslims so that the unity of the Islamic ummah can be achieved.

Iran: Paper Views Presidential Aspirations of Nateq-Nuri

LD0608115296 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 1 Aug 96 pp 1, 13

[Report: "Nateq-Nuri's Chances for Presidency Bright, Even Velayati Supports Him"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Political debate over who will be Iran's next president is heating up in the Iranian capital and a prominent lawmaker predicted that Majles Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri's chances "are bright and the foreign minister will support his candidacy."

Majles Deputy from the Tehran constituency, Dr. Hasan Ghafuri-Fard, in an interview with IRAN NEWS yesterday said: "Based on my knowledge and understanding of (Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar) Velayati, I have no doubt that he will support the candidacy of Mr Nateq-Nuri if the speaker declares his candidacy for the upcoming presidential elections."

The elections will be held next year in August and the print media in Tehran are taking a keen interest in "who will be the next president?"

Ghafuri-Fard said: "Those who share the opinion of the Jame'eh-ye Ruhaniyat-e-Mobarez (JRM) have only one candidate for the presidency and he is Mr Nateq-Nuri."

He said that the Islamic Association of University Teachers, the Association of the University Students and the Islamic Engineers Association "with one voice support the candidacy" of Nateq-Nuri.

Ghafuri-Fard also said: "I believe that those who are putting forward Mr Velayati's name for candidacy are trying to start a war of words in the election campaign."

Next year in June or July the nation will cast its vote to elect the next president. The first president after the triumph of the Islamic revolution was Abolhasan Bani-sadr who remained at the post for almost two years before his impeachment by the Majles and dismissal from the post because of his actions against the Islamic revolution.

The second president was Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i who held the post for just two months before he was martyred, along with his Prime Minister Mohammad

Javad Bahonar, by the terrorist grouplet Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO).

In 1980, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i was elected president and successfully completed two terms before he assumed the high position of the leader of the Islamic Republic in 1988.

In 1989, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was elected president and is currently completing his second term which will end in June or July 1996.

According to the Constitution of the Islamic Republic, Rafsanjani is not entitled to stand for elections for a third consecutive term.

These days the print media in Iran are focusing on various aspects of the upcoming presidential elections and the candidates. One of the questions raised is whether the future president should be a cleric or a non-cleric?

Political analysts believe that the debate over who should be the next Iranian president is a good sign for a healthy democracy.

"Well, the nation has every right to know all about the presidential candidates, and the ongoing debate will help the people to choose the right person for the job," an analyst said.

Iran Denies Harboring Any Camp for Terrorist Training

LD0608191096 *Tehran IRNA in English*
1747 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, (New York), Aug 6, IRNA — Mohammad Hoseyn Nosrat, press secretary of [the] Islamic Republic of Iran's mission to the United Nations released an official communique here Tuesday [6 August] which reads as follows: "USA TODAY's allegation about the existence of terrorist camps in Iran echoes the disinformation campaign by Israeli secret service and the desperate attempts by an Iranian terrorist organization in Iraq ("terrorist camps seen in Iran," news, Friday [2 August]).

A new round of accusations against Iran of which the 'USA TODAY' article is but one, like the havoc raised against Iran after the bombing in Argentina, will dissipate shortly. And like the Argentine incident, the real culprits will likely be found.

However, the victimization of Iran in public opinion by irresponsible and politically motivated propaganda will more than likely continue so long as the Islamic Republic of Iran refuses to surrender to American pressure and hegemony.

I, reiterate that the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects in the strongest possible terms the existence of any camp in Iran for terrorist training. In this connection, it is important to note that Iran's strength lies not in training any terrorists in Iran or supporting international terrorism but in its unwavering commitment to the principle of rejecting both hegemony and hegemonization.

That principle is enshrined in the egalitarian tenets of Islam.

There is strength in this commitment and message which cannot be prevailed over by propagandist defamation or threat. It is a reality of our time which needs to be understood and accommodated in the context of shared responsibility for peaceful coexistence".

Iran: Velayati Interviewed on Importance of Foreign Ministry, Policy

LD0608123696 *Tehran IRAN in Persian* 1 Aug 96
p 10

[Second Installment of Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [IRAN] Dr. Velayati: How far does foreign policy affect domestic affairs? In view of the problems that we face — economic, social, and cultural — what is your analysis of the link?

[Velayati] With the passing of time and the advance of history, borders are becoming even more transparent, as foreigners would say, and it is becoming increasingly possible for the domestic and foreign factors to affect each other. It might have been possible in the past to have a closed society but that is impossible today.

Fortunately, our foreign policy is based on the two principles of Islamism and Iranism. Both traditions, Islamism and Iranism, are traditions of communication. When many people lived in castles, or in distant tribes in jungles, Iran and Islam were global powers. Therefore, we have no deterrent and impediment from establishing communication links. On the contrary, we are encouraged to do so. This is our method. But what is the effect? You cannot have plans and programs for the development and reconstruction of the country but be dismissive of [events] outside the country. You have to create a national will, and prepare the background, politically, socially and culturally, as the main elements for reconstruction.

The other important thing is to prepare the proper background outside the country. First, you have to establish financial and economic relations as well as the transfer of technology in sectors which have links abroad. These are important facts which have foreign

links. For example, if we want to build a factory, a steel mill, we have to reach an understanding with foreigners. But the first step, even before the contract is signed, must be taken by the Foreign Ministry. The political climate has to be created before they are prepared to sign a proper contract. There have been cases when foreign companies have told their Iranian partner that they are ready for industrial cooperation but their foreign ministries are preventing them, and that our Foreign Ministry should meet their government officials and solve the existing political problems. Then, and before anything else, it is necessary to collect and analyze information in order to find the existing potentials. This is again the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry. Our embassies have to discover the potentials of the host country, to analyze the information, to report to the relevant organizations, which then study the report and announce their preparation for cooperation. The second step is also a responsibility of the Foreign Ministry, which is to reach an understanding with the political figures of foreign countries on permits for their companies to work in Iran. The next step is taken by the relevant organizations which sign the contract. In view of the fact that we want to deal with the many cases of the country's underdevelopment, the first and second Development Plans have allowed loans and credits from abroad. For example, our foreign currency revenues this year are \$6 billion, but we want to work with a \$25 billion capacity, because we know that if we do not build a dam today, it will be even more expensive in three years' time. It is in our interest to take loans. To receive the loan, it is necessary to prepare the ground politically. The main role here is again with the Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Ministry played a leading role during a crisis a few years ago, when the Americans had influenced the process of rescheduling Iran's debts.

In our bid to reschedule the repayment of our loans to other countries, we asked for a respite of six months on average, which would be followed by the gradual payment of the loans. Praise be to God, the Central Bank performed well after this period of respite and effected the necessary payments on time.

However, ever since then, the Americans have been seeking to create crises for us. At the time, they wrote in their analyses that Iran would never be able to rid itself of that crisis. However, thanks to divine blessings, the Foreign Ministry was able to play an active role in winning the political consent of [donor] governments with the rescheduling.

Another task accomplished by the Foreign Ministry is obtaining the agreements of various governments with the transfer of different types of technologies [to Iran].

We have so far made notable progress in the fields of industry and technology [in Iran]. The Foreign Ministry has played a fundamental role in the area of the transfer of technology. Different types of technology have been brought into Iran to help the development process. If something happens in the process of the actual transfer, that is to say if work on construction of a factory suddenly comes to a halt for any reason, the Foreign Ministry is asked for help. They tell us: Sir! Please do something to solve the problem, as we have invested billions and billions [in the project]! I will give you an example. [passage omitted]

You see that the Russians are currently completing the Bushehr nuclear power station. Undoubtedly, the Foreign Ministry and our embassy in Moscow played a very fundamental role in encouraging the Russians to adopt the necessary political decision to complete the power station. Everyone knows this. Even now, the moment the smallest problem arises, help is sought from us and a telephone call is made either to myself, my deputy, or our ambassador in Moscow.

You know that the Russians in essence made a political decision when they opted to help Iran complete the Bushehr plant. Because of this decision, the Russians suffered a great deal of pressure from America. However, they had already concluded that Iran was their long-term partner. They even went further than this and stated that Iran was their strategic partner. It was thanks to the diplomatic endeavors of the Foreign Ministry that the Russians finally reached the conclusion that they should enter into extensive long-term cooperation with us.

Sometimes a generator somewhere, which produces 1,000 MW for example, breaks down and a specialist should get to it as soon as possible. Some generators are technologically advanced and should be changed. Without the Foreign Ministry intervening and bringing in such and such a person from such and such a country, providing all the facilities and removing all problems in the way of bringing in a specialist to cure the fault in the generator, it would be impossible for you to do that easily. The same applies to routine, everyday matters. Therefore, many tasks carried out in the country are ostensibly domestic matters, but we should stress that, although they are domestic issues, their principle basis lies in foreign policy, which cannot possibly be achieved without close, sincere, and conscious cooperation by the Foreign Ministry.

[IRAN] The part played by the Foreign Ministry in the achievements made in the country's construction is undeniable. Foreign policy — considering the global developments which we are witnessing today, in terms of communications, diplomatic issues and various other incidents — is about diplomacy, which has brought about Iran's ever-increasing success on the international scene. In your opinion, what type of viewpoint is behind the domestic opinion that brings about Iran's ever-increasing diplomatic authority and credibility?

[Velayati] That is an important question. It is a compound question. One can, thus, answer it in a preliminary way, but it can be extended into great detail. I will give a brief indication. The foreign policy of a state based on ideals and principles must definitely fall within the framework of that state's ideals. Many countries of the world claim to be principled but, when it comes to their own interests, they say they are pragmatists and will act according to their interests.

There is a fundamental difference between our foreign policy and that of many other countries; it is that our foreign policy is the foreign policy of a principled state. Our revolution was an ideological, cultural revolution and our state is an ideological, principled state. Our foreign policy cannot be anything other than this. That is a fundamental principle.

The second point is that, within the framework of ideological principles, we must be realistic. In other words, we cannot implement our policies in a vacuum.

Our main model is that of the government of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and the government of His Holiness [Imam] 'Ali, peace be upon him. In the early days of Islam, while the policy of Islam fell within the framework of Islamic principles, it was also brimming with realism. You have war. You have endurance. You have tolerance. However, all this is based on the encouragement of the one who is leading. At that time, it was the Holy Prophet, now it is the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult; Khamene'i]. The commands of Islam and the interests of the Islamic ummah [community] are carried out on the basis of his judgment. What he says definitely falls within a principled framework. He said: Honor, government and interest. You can see that honor is a matter of principle. Interest is that very thing in which realism plays a great part. And government, too, is a program that is based on correct human judgment regarding precise ideas.

The third point is that we are a state. We are not a movement, current or tendency. We are expected to govern. At that time too, in the early days of Islam, it was the same. In Mecca, Islam was a movement. In Medina, Islam was a government. Here, too, we were

a movement before the revolution, but now we are a government. Today this is Islam's Mother of all Villages [Koranic expression, usually a reference to Mecca] and the Islamic revolution was the revival of Islamic values. All Muslims place their hopes and have their eyes on us. This is said by everyone without embarrassment, be they Sunni, Shiite, nationalists, from whatever sect, if they are Muslims: We place our hopes in Iran. We, therefore, carry the responsibility for the entire world of Islam — I do not mean to say that we should interfere in their governments.

We are responsible for meeting the expectations of world Muslims who consider Iran to be the most powerful Muslim country with an Islamic state that is rejuvenating the lofty values of Islam. We should create the capabilities that would enable us to respond to their needs. However, we should remember that we will never succeed if we merely indulge in speaking about ideals without actually fulfilling them in practice. This applies to all our ideals, whether they are to do with furthering the objectives of Islam or pursuing the country's development.

If development and construction become our only objectives, then the pivotal aspirations and fundamental principles of the revolution will be ignored. If we only pay respect to these objectives without actually working toward their fulfilment, and at the same time we also ignore the country's development and progress, then, in future, we will never be able to act as a model for other Islamic countries. This is because making a strong country for Muslims is itself a part of the Islamic system of government. [passage omitted]

If we seek to prove that Islam is good both for this world and for the life which follows death, then we must undoubtedly ensure that, in terms of development and progress, we do not fall behind secular countries which have no belief whatsoever in religious values.

It is possible for one to engage simultaneously in all the following tasks: Striving toward salvation in the eternal life after death, safeguarding one's religion, ensuring the supremacy of religious values, developing one's country and meeting people's needs, and ensuring that they are not hungry or suffering from other hardships. [passage omitted]

[IRAN] Dr. Velayati, please tell us a bit about yourself. If you had to choose between heading the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomacy or your own personal work, that is, medicine, which one would you choose?

[Velayati] If I were to answer on the basis of personal taste, I prefer scientific and research work. The two things that you mentioned, that is, medical studies and

the continuation of research and teaching at university, and history, especially the history of Iran, which is my side interest — I prefer these two activities. Of course, this is if no responsibility is placed on my shoulders. However, if a responsibility or duty is given to me — in view of the debt I owe to Islam, Iran, and the Islamic revolution — I would definitely place responsibility higher than anything else and consider it an honor; just as, after the revolution, I stopped doing a large part of the activities I used to carry out before the revolution and took up the post that was offered to me in 1358 [1979-80], that is, deputy health minister. After that too, I accepted as duties the post of majles deputy and that of foreign minister.

[IRAN] In view of the fact that you are one of the busiest members of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the person with the longest record as cabinet minister, and that everyone who knows you speaks of your orderliness and organizational skills, I wanted to ask you how you organize yourself?

[Velayati] Yes, for example, I will tell you about my work today. This morning I went for a walk in the mountains. Then I had a brief meeting with my deputies and then I came here to see you. (It is worth mentioning that this interview began at 0700 in the morning.) Usually, I am busy until night time, often until 2200 or 2300.

In the first instance, human beings must create mental alertness in themselves and put themselves into the task, so to speak. They must reduce their leisure time a bit. I can tell you as a doctor that there would really be no great harm at all if a person slept for only five hours a day. A person who, for example, sleeps 10 hours a day is doing it more as a question of habit than physical need. In the first instance, a person must use their 24 hours to the utmost. In the second place, they must prioritize. That is to say, if a person does whatever task happens to come along and does not prioritize, their productivity will not be very high and they will also lose their peace of mind.

Prioritizing one's work and working on the basis of priorities increases one's productivity, especially in highly responsible jobs where many tasks are referred to you and many requests are made of you. You must be able to arrange everything, in your plans and in your mind, according to importance and leave the things that are less important for a later time. Physical activities, sport in other words, is very important and, if carried out in keeping with a person's abilities and age, they prepare the person for work and alleviate fatigue. [passage omitted.]

In physics, friction slows down movement. It is the same with mental activity. If you allow it to happen, many ideas will invade the brain and a part of the brain that should be concentrating will be distracted instead of being fully focused. Mental concentration requires practice. One meaning of mental concentration is that a person should not allow side issues to invade their mind.

More important than all of this is belief and trust in God. In other words, if a person believes that the work they are doing — especially in our system — is for God's satisfaction and if they trust in God, God will help them. If they achieve their aim, then so much the better. If they do not achieve their aim, then they have carried out their duty. In other words, in our system of thinking, there is no place for failure.

[IRAN] Thank you for your time.

Iran: Oil Official—'No Effect' From U.S. Embargo on Projects

*LD0708131296 Tehran IRNA in English
0924 GMT 7 Aug 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA. — Preliminary talks with foreign companies on five offshore oil projects, on international tenders since last november, are still going on and the U.S. embargo has had no effect, a morning daily wrote Wednesday [7 August], quoting Esmail Jalilian, an official at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The Persian daily 'IRAN' also quoted Jalilian as summing up the activities of the French oil company, Total, at 'A' and 'E' oil fields off the Iranian island of Sirri in the Persian Gulf.

In order to expand the project, the NIOC with participation of a Malaysian oil company has signed an agreement with Total, he added.

The Sirri 'A' oil field will start pumping oil by January 1998 and Sirri 'E' oil field by early 1999, Jalilian said, adding by the year 2000 both fields will reach the projected maximum output.

The agreement to expand the two Sirri oil fields was inked by Total and NIOC last August and the projected daily production of both oil fields is 120,000 barrels. Some dlrs. [dollars] 610 million has been invested on the project.

He said that Total is making a good progress at the Sirri oil fields.

The NIOC official stated that test drilling is one of the stages of the work on the project and building of sea platforms will soon follow.

**Iran: Daily Backs Deployment of 'Oil Weapon'
Against U.S.**

LD0508122096 Tehran IRNA in English
0908 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA — The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Monday [5 August] supported President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's call to oil producing Muslim countries to stop oil shipment to the U.S.

Turning to the figures published by the American Petroleum Institute (API) which indicate a hike in U.S. oil imports due to drop in productions, the editorial said President Rafsanjani's call in this connection was timely.

Reminding that oil was employed as a political tool by King Faysal of Saudi Arabia when the Arab-Israel war broke out in October 1973 and the U.S. aid to the Zionist state continued, it said "oil weapon remains sheathed since Faysal's assassination in March 1975."

"It is hoped the Arab heads of state, particularly the successors of Faysal in Saudi Arabia, will realize that they cannot afford to keep that weapon sheathed forever," said the editorial adding that one day it has to be unsheathed and President Rafsanjani thinks that the time is ripe now.

Iran: New Basij Group Announced; Missionaries' Activities Noted

NC0508173796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 29 Jul 96 p 2

[From the "For Your Information" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new group known as the Basijian-e Peyrov-e Velayat [The Basijis Supporting the Jurisconsult] has announced its existence in Mazandaran province and has criticized the Basijian-e Delsukhteh [The Bereaved Basijis], which accused some of the province's officials last month of favoritism. The new group, a statement from which has been received by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, has warned the publications that reflect the views of the Bereaved Basijis.

—It is said that a number of Beha'i and Christian missionaries are striving, around Tehran and namely in Shahr-e Qods, to propagate their religions. Eyewitness reports indicate that these missionaries are trying to attract people to their faiths by offering them goods and other types of help.

Iran: President in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari To Inaugurate Projects

LD0508122896 Tehran IRNA in English
0655 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shahr-e Kord, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Prov., Aug. 5, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived here this morning to put into operation more than 170 industrial, economic and development projects.

The president was warmly welcomed by the representative of the leader in the province, the governor general and many other provincial officials at Shahr-e Kord airport.

The governor general of the province 'Abdallah Kobae'i said that during president's visit 35 grand industrial and manufacturing units will be inaugurated including the highway connecting Shahr-e Kord to Khuzestan Province.

The president is to inaugurate 116 telecommunications projects, 18 agricultural and 11 industrial projects, including water and power supply projects to remote villages.

President will also break the ground for 'Karon-4' dam and a 196-bed hospital, said the governor general. Local officials are to propose to President Rafsanjani plans for construction of railroad line and a petrochemical complex, he added.

In his visit to this southwestern province, President Rafsanjani is being accompanied by the ministers of road and transport, post, telegraph and telephone, industries and agriculture.

Iran: Rafsanjani Talks About Industrial Development

LD0608134696 Tehran IRNA in English
0603 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shahr-e Kord, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Prov., Aug. 6 (IRNA) — Six more development and industrial projects were inaugurated Monday [5 August] in this southwestern city by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The ongoing massive efforts to develop the country's industries are the outcome of infrastructural projects accomplished during the first five-year development plan, the president said while inaugurating the projects.

He further underlined the need to channel national investments to industries sector.

Meanwhile, addressing the provincial officials at the city's telecommunications center, the president stated

that establishing social justice is the main feature of the construction period. He added that economic growth and development of deprived regions, including this southwestern province provide the best proof to materialization of social justice in the Islamic Republic.

Commenting on progresses made in the country in the recent years and during the construction era, he said that percentage of poverty is now down to 17 percent from the earlier rate of 47 percent.

The president who was here Monday on a one-day visit, inaugurated some 200 infrastructural, agricultural, industrial, economic and development projects. The president and the accompanying delegation returned to Tehran last night.

Iran: Paper Reports on Funeral for Military Commander

LD0608142796 *Tehran KEYHAN in Persian*
1 Aug 96 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Funeral of the Deputy in Charge of Operations of Khorasan's Nasr Division"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mashhad — Brigadier General Guard Haj Mohammad Hasan Nazar-Nezhad [of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, IRGC], the deputy in charge of operations of the Nasr-5 Infantry Division of Khorasan Province, has attained martyrdom.

According to our reporter, the funeral procession in Mashhad for martyr Nazar-Nezhad, who was known as the father of Khorasan's basijis [volunteer force affiliated to the IRGC], was attended by many sections of the population.

It should be said that before his martyrdom, martyr Hasan Nazar-Nezhad suffered from over 100 shrapnel wounds from the time of the sacred defense [Iran-Iraq war]. He was one of the great commanders from Khorasan during the sacred defense.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: Minister's Statement Clarifies Indo-Nepalese Border Issues

BK0608073096 *Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English* 5 Aug 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Aug 4 - The government has finally made its long-awaited stance on the Indo-Nepal border controversy public, stating that the Junge Pillar built in 1818 across the Mechi river was not, and is not, a boundary marker but only a reference pillar.

In a statement released to the press today, Foreign Minister Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani said that the newly built border markers in Jhapa are in line with the 1816 Sugauli Treaty and that they have been constructed only on being approved by the joint field team representing both India and Nepal.

Lohani, however, added that the government was prepared to ask India to re-examine the border pillars to remove doubts concerning technical mistakes. The government will hold talks with India, if the need arises, he said.

The opposition has accused the government of oversights over its move to allow India to build a new pillar 3,000 ft inside Nepal when an original border marker, the Junge Pillar, stands east to the Mechi river.

Lohani indicated today that the Junge Pillar was built by the British-Indian government on its side of the border in 1818 to the east of the Mechi as a reference pillar after the river was designated the boundary by the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli. But no reference pillar was built on the Nepal side, he added.

Since the Mechi river is continuously changing its course, it was observed that the boundary between the two countries would not be stable, Lohani said. To solve this problem, Nepal and India agreed to fix the border in 1988. According to this agreement, the border map drawn by British India in 1874 was agreed upon as the standard border map by both the countries.

Contrary to some press reports, Lohani said Nepal does have the original copy of the 1874 map. Both the countries henceforth agreed upon the Nepal-India boundary as laid down in the 1874 map. It was also agreed that new pillars, according to that map, would be erected, which would once and for all fix the boundary between the two countries, irrespective of the Mechi changing its course, he said.

To put it plainly, in 1988 both Nepal and India agreed to erect boundary markers according to the 1874 map, he said. Work on erecting the pillars started four years ago and is expected to continue for three more years. The new pillars near Bhadrapur were erected only after a field study and subsequent signing of agreement by Nepali and Indian sides, Lohani said. According to the Foreign Minister, 77 new pillars have already been erected in keeping with this fixed boundary principle.

Meanwhile, the government has held talks with the opposition with a view to dispatching an all-party team to Bhadrapur, hotbed of the current border controversy.

In order to facilitate the all-party team to get a real picture, His Majesty's Government is prepared to send Nepali experts along to Bhadrapur, Lohani said.

Lohani hinted that current doubts regarding the border markers are mainly because the Mechi had changed its course over the years. In 1992, parts of Maheshpur VDC was to the east of the river but the 1874 map shows the very area lay to the west of the Mechi.

Likewise, the 1992 map shows that the river's mid-stream lay 300 metres from the Bhadrapur High School while the 1874 map shows the mid-stream was 120 metre away. Between 1874 and 1992, the river has frequently changed its course, resulting in two different maps. But Nepali experts in the joint border committee observe this will not have any effect on the Nepali border whatsoever, Lohani's statement says.

Nepal: 'Top Level' Member Says UML Not To Oppose Treaty With India

BK0508114796 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 4 Aug 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Aug 2 [date line as received] — Though the main opposition party, CPN-UML [Communist Party of Nepal—United Marxist-Leninist], has said that it would take some time to study the Mahakali treaty prior to ratifying it in the Parliament, a top level party member studying the treaty has assured that UML would not go for the abrogation of the treaty.

"Even if we find some discrepancies in the Treaty, we would try to correct it rather than to outrightly reject it," Jhalanath Khanal, a former minister and member of the team which is currently studying the treaty on behalf of the party, said.

Speaking at a symposium on the Nepal-India Treaty for Integrated Development of Mahakali, organised here today by Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NICCI), Khanal said his party had to go for the fresh study of the Treaty due to "various" reasons.

First, we had considered the initial accord signed between the two countries in Kathmandu on the foreign minister level as the final treaty, he said. "But the signing of the treaty again at the prime minister's level in New Delhi, and some of the issues raised by people and the experts compelled us to review the Treaty before it gets ratified," Khanal said.

Khanal, presently a member of the lower House, was one time general secretary of the UML when the party was still in a banned state. At that time the party

followed radical line and was known simply as Marxist-Leninist.

Speaking on the same occasion, Foreign Minister Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani clarified that the government has not done the Treaty under any pressure. He said it was the country's first treaty with India under water sharing principles.

Lohani said that the government had not breached a single word from the guidelines set under the national consensus. "The final treaty was signed in India only because formalities of translations in native languages, and ratification of the Treaty from the Indian cabinet were still due."

"We have done the Treaty under integrated power concept, which allows Nepal to get exactly half of the total production, regardless of on which part of the river the power stations remain," Lohani added.

According to the Foreign Minister, Nepal is not in loss in water distribution, too. However, out of the total 24,000 cu sec water from the Mahakali river Nepal has to give 8,000 cu sec of water to India, due to previous treaty. The remaining 16,000 cu sec of water will be divided equally between two countries.

Former prime minister Kirtinidhi Bista, speaking on the same occasion, strongly demanded the abolishment of the Treaty as it was "against the national interest" of the country. He said that there were lots of inequalities in the treaty. "If you go minutely into the Treaty you'll find that the Treaty is not in favour of Nepal, hence for the interest of Nepal the Treaty has to be abolished," he added.

He also blamed politicians of the past and present for being dominated and influenced by the Indian leaders. He also said that the abolishment of the Treaty would not hamper the relations between Nepal and India, if Nepalese politicians can put their point clearly.

Chairman of the function, NICC president Prabhakar Sumsher Rana, highlighted the importance and benefit of hydro power development for Nepal. "India's need for power consumption is insatiable and Nepal can gain access into that veritable pool. India's northern grid's current capacity is around 22,000 MW. It is estimated to rise further to 42,000 MW by 2005 and reach the demand curb of 58,000 MW by the year 2010, with growing peak deficits of 9,600, 14,900 and 20,800 MW in these intervening years."

He said, "As of today, Nepal's installed capacity is no more than 253 MW. Its official load forecast demand stands at 610 MW by 2005, which is to rise to 1002 MW in the next five years and to reach 1642 MW by

2015. It has, however, an assessed hydro potential of 83,000 MW out of which half is techno-economically feasible."

Nepal: Opposition Leader Says UML To Block Treaty With India

BK0508120696 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 4 Aug 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Aug 2 [date-line as received] — Opposition leader Manmohan Adhikari today said that his party would not allow the Parliament to ratify the Mahakali Treaty to be tabled by the ruling parties during the current session.

The UML [United Marxist-Leninist] leader urged Parliament to look at the Treaty in context of the bungled Indo-Nepal treaties of the past and not in isolation.

The Mahakali Treaty is an attempt to resolve the Tanakpur stalemate, putting it in a larger basket called Integrated Mahakali Development package, he, however, said.

The ruling coalition's move to put the Treaty before Parliament despite the reservations expressed against it by our party is undiplomatic, he added. "All the existing Indo-Nepal treaties should first be reviewed instead."

The UML has already stated in Parliament that it would not like to be rushed into the bi-lateral Treaty, stating that the party wanted to study the accord in detail before committing itself. The government has already registered the Treaty in Parliament for ratification.

Adhikari, however, said that the treaty could be brought to Parliament after six months after holding extensive discussion and studying it thoroughly.

The 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, the 1954 Gandak Treaty and the Kosi Treaty of 1959 are all fraught with glaring oversights and need to be revised, the former prime minister said, a demand the UML has made repeatedly.

The Kosi Treaty was later revised in 1966. None other than the Nepali Congress Prime Minister B P Koirala himself opposed the 1950 Treaty, Adhikari said.

"We accord Nepal-India ties the due sensitivity and care and we want these cordial ties to continue," Adhikari said in the House of Representatives, where the opposition has been asking the government to make its stance on the Indo-Nepal border controversies clear.

"We had asked India to provide us the corridor for a transit route to Bangladesh and removal of export barrier

to Nepali goods entering India," Adhikari said. "But this government has failed on all fronts."

For second straight day Pushparaj Pokharel, the UML MP representing Jhapa's controversial border constituency along the Mechi river, took a special time in the Lower House to express his anger over the government silence.

"While the Indian Embassy issued a statement that all is well with the new border markers, our government surprisingly is tight-lipped," he said, adding that the border area remains tense over the border dispute.

"This kind of silence can have adverse effect on Nepal-India ties."

Meanwhile, a rally was organized in Bhadrapur Thursday [1 August] by the ANNFSU, UML's student wing, for the alleged Indian encroachment of the Nepali territory, reports received here said. The protest march started at Bhadrapur Customs Office — which stands next to the newly constructed border marker, went round the local bazaar, finally arriving at the District Administration Office.

The rally chanted anti-Indian slogans like "Down with Indian imperialism!" and "Long live Nepali nationalism!"

The protestors later registered a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister at the District Administration Office.

Nepal: Journalists View Movement Restriction as Press 'Censorship'

BK0608065696 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 5 Aug 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Aug 4 - Press reporters boycotted Sunday's [4 August] meeting of both the houses of Parliament, protesting over the restriction of movement inside the parliament premises, which has been viewed as a new mode of censorship imposed by the officials.

Reporters have been only allowed to sit inside the press box and have been barred from entering the secretariat grounds and lobbies near offices of various parliamentary committees for the past several weeks. The reporters were denied access to these places from where they could sometimes gather important news and information as some of the committees and their members did not like the press criticising them. The officials also did not like house committee members appearing in the news media.

Press pass holders are also restricted from entering the canteen, which has always been a major place of interaction between them and the members of parliament.

Reporters have also complained that they are not being able to get press releases, agenda for meetings and other materials this session unlike in the previous ones, when this new mode of censorship was not in effect.

The restriction on movement of reporters was imposed by the parliamentary affairs committee after some members complained that they were being exposed in the public by the press.

Some members of Parliament gave their assurances that the issue would be raised in the House, but MP Raghu Pant, who tried to raise the voice, was flatly disallowed to talk anything on the plight of journalists. Later Pant walked out, boycotting the meeting.

In a press statement this afternoon, he demanded the end to the restriction. The press, which works as a bridge between the MPs and the public, must not be harassed, he said adding that only this could ensure better information at a time when government controlled media are creating information gap.

Foreign Minister Dr Prakash Chandra Lohani, who was informing the House on the Mechi border issue, walked to the lawn where reporters were camped, and said the press and politicians were inter-related. They cannot survive without one another, he said.

MPs Krishna Gopal Shrestha and Birodh Khatiwada termed the restriction undemocratic and said the press should not be barred from reporting on the parliament and even parliamentarians.

MP Padma Shanker Adhikari said such a censorship was deplorable in a democratic country.

Later, Speaker Ram Chandra Poudyal assured the members that the matter would be considered promptly and be discussed at the committee meetings.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Asif—Implementation of CTBT Not Linked With India

BK0708111496 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
7 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by THE NEWS correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lahore — Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali has said that they have not linked the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) with India.

Talking to newsmen at his Raiwind Road residence Tuesday [6 August], he said the implementation of

Treaty would be started only if eight nuclear states sign on it.

He said that Gen (retd) Hameed Gull and Qazi Hussain Ahmed had no right to criticise the CTBT as they did not have a mandate from the public. He slated the politicians and unelected representatives for making irresponsible statements on the issue. He said that Qazi Hussain Ahmed did not understand about Pakistan's clear stance on the issue despite his efforts.

Pakistan: U.S. Sanctions Law Not To Affect Ties With Iran

BK0708023096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has urged the United States and Iran to resolve their differences through bilateral negotiations. Commenting on the legislation signed by the U.S. President, under which sanctions can be imposed on firms investing in oil and gas industry in Iran and Libya, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that the step will not affect Pakistan's relations with Iran.

Pakistan: President Interviewed on National Assembly

BK0708103496 Islamabad PAKISTAN OBSERVER
in English 6 Aug 96 pp 1,9

[Report on an "exclusive interview" with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari by a panel of reporters from THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER and AL-AKHBAR in Islamabad; date not given. Report by Zafar Malik and Tanvir Siddiqui]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD - President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has indicated that he may think of using his discretionary powers under Article 58-2(B) of the Constitution to dissolve the National Assembly in the supreme national interest if circumstances make it imperative to do so.

In an exclusive interview with a panel of newsmen representing PAKISTAN OBSERVER and AL-AKHBAR, on the occasion of AL-AKHBAR's second anniversary, the President said, "Whether we like it or not, this Article exists in the Constitution. I would be the last person wanting to use it. But if circumstance, God forbid make it imperative in the supreme interest of the country, then I may even think of using that (discretionary) power."

Led by Editor-in-Chief, Zahid Malik, the panel comprised Faisal Zahid Malik, Zafar Malik, Tanvir Siddiqui and Azim Siddiqui.

He declared that he will do whatever possible to ensure that the Constitution works in a smooth manner and there is no political vacuum or political instability.

The President said the spate of calls by some of the Opposition leaders asking him to dissolve the National Assembly has surprised him a little. "I really do not know what is motivating the to do so. Perhaps it is desired that this Assembly's life be curtailed so that another elections could take place soon."

He said it is important for the two major political groups (PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)]) to work this out amongst themselves as when the elections should take place. In normal circumstances, the elections should take place at the end of the five-year term of the government, he added. If the Opposition wants early elections, then they should sit with the government and work out the modalities for that. He said the government on its part, thought they could work out modalities on "Give and Take" basis including some constitutional amendments with the Opposition. But, again, the President emphasized this is something which they both have to work out.

The President said the 8th Amendment was introduced during Martial Law period of General Ziaul Haq has some positive aspects as well. "All my life I have struggled against what he considered a bad aspect of 8th amendment. He said during earlier part of this government immediately after elections, there was a possibility to arrive a on removal of adverse parts of the amendment. One could see consensus emerging between the two political groups. He said, in fact this was his motivation for resigning from the People's Party (after becoming President) so that I could play a role in helping them reach a consensus" But unfortunately that did not happen, and subsequently the Opposition was talking in terms of long march, train march and Tehrik-e-Nijat etc.

The President recalled that again there were moments when we thought we could move towards that consensus as indicated by the opposition's cooperation with the Kashmir Committee of the Parliament. But again there were ups and downs. There were moments when one perceived moving towards consensus. But the opposition decided to embark upon more activist policy course.

He said it is the right of the Opposition to decide on their course of action. "If there agitation or their political protest is within confines of constitution and the law, they are justified in doing this. But if it amounts to violations of the law and the constitution, then the government will have every right to quell that, and

to suppress it through machinery of its law and order. President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari emphasized that it is better for the Opposition to use constitutional fora, that is where emphasis should be, that is where maximum focus should be.

Replying to a question about the program of the Opposition to stage dharna [sit-in] and to surround Islamabad the President said some of these parties are not represented in the Parliament. But as political parties they have every right to carry out their peaceful political struggle. "So long as it is peaceful, in accordance with the traditions prevailing in our sub continent and in accordance with the traditions of democracy, they have every right to express their point of view." Of course, it would be much better if their views are expressed in Parliament. This will enormously strengthen the democratic process if debate and discussion takes place in constitutional fora. "I think it is very important for all political parties which ever side of the divide they might be to conscientiously strengthen the democratic process by making the institutions under the Constitution and specially the Parliament more relevant. I think it is very important for both the government and the opposition to elevate discussions and debate in the Parliament instead of resorting to accusations and counter accusations. The President said unfortunately during the last two and a half years. The debate in the National Assembly has not been allowed to proceed. There had been too many stoppages and too many interruptions and much of agitation within Parliament.

The president thought both sides — Government and the Opposition — have to realize that by this kind of record, Parliament gets lowered in the eyes of the people. Public representatives get lowered in the esteem of the people and ultimately it has negative impact on the democratic process. "So it is very important that constitutional fora where peoples representatives sit, especially the Parliament — must be elevated to their true position and meaningful debate and legislation should take place within Parliament."

The President stressed that the Government and the Opposition had both to play an important role in making democracy work in an efficient way. Both should understand that their future and the future of the country lies in improving the quality of administration, improving the quality of government and improving the level of debate and meaningful discussions on issues rather than debate on personalities or accusation and counter-accusations. He said it was for this reason that in response to the Leader of the Opposition's proposal for setting up of a Judicial Commission to combat corruption, I had proposed that this matter of corruption needs greater insight and in depth probe and meaningful

discussion that would be warranted by the working of the Judicial Commission. He said corruption was a very complex issue. It had permeated our society. It was therefore essential that we make changes in our laws which should be more transparent. The revenue collection agencies and all those officials who exercise discretionary powers should carry out their duties in a transparent manner. It is, however, important that as far as possible discretionary powers should be reduced. The laws should be simplified so that complexity of laws should not allow officials and people in position of power to take undue advantage. Apart from legislation, even the implementation of laws should be made better. Through simplification of laws and through detailed elaboration of what one is supposed to do and what the process of accountability should be. He said the people expected their chosen representatives to honor the trust that they had reposed in them and as such they must come forward with solutions.

President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari said that in order to rid our society from the menace of corruption, we have to go through a moral revolution. He said by suggesting the establishment of select committees of National Assembly, he was trying to focus the attention to where it was needed, that is, we should start really cooperating, which ever side of the divided we might be, for improving the quality and image of our debate; of our institutions which are the very pillar foundations of a democratic order. Whether you call it Islamic system of Sh'ura or Western system of parliamentary democracy; it is the chosen representatives of the people who must decide on all these issues. If on the other hand, both the government and the Opposition try to pay scant attention to this, then they are both hurting the democratic process.

The President said he was happy that both the Leader of the Opposition and the Prime Minister had responded positively to the idea of the select committees. But within two to three weeks afterwards the Opposition decided to retract and pursue a different path. Though he was not in a position to lecture anyone on this, as everyone has a right to have his own course of action, but I think believing in the rules of game in accordance with the constitution, the rule of law would ultimately serve the political parties, the democratic system and the country more than confrontation which could end up in great political instability, he added.

Replying a question whether he was in contact with the opposition leaders, he said as President of Pakistan, his doors were open for all political leaders, including PML (N) Chief. He even offered to go to the house of Mian Nawaz Sharif, but he declined the offer and hence no meeting could take place with him. However, there are

leaders in the Opposition, including PML (N) who keep on meeting him individually and sometimes in groups.

The President was asked as to what he considered number one problem of Pakistan. He said it was difficult to answer this question as many problems are interconnected. In this context, he mentioned that two third of our population was illiterate, there was high rate of population growth, economic corruption, inflation, the law and order situation, eradication of corruption, national security needs and good governance.

He said the first and foremost consideration was that Pakistan should be strong and maintain its independence. The country should be self-sufficient in its needs. He said if we can handle our problems for which Almighty God has given us many opportunities, we can become a very good and viable country.

The President warned of great dangers and perils ahead and said the 21st century would witness new trends where national frontiers will become meaningless with the advent of new means of information and knowledge. There would be new trends of nationalism and sub-nationalism and cultures and sub-cultures. Many countries might break-up. In this context, he gave the example of Soviet Union which despite being a great empire with formidable weapons of mass destruction, collapsed and many new states which formed part of the Soviet Union emerged as independent countries. He said one could see nationalist movements in whatever had remained of the Soviet Union. He was mentioning to nationalist movements in Chechnya and Dagestan. He also mentioned the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan and sub-nationalism in north east India.

He said by the grace of Almighty God after promulgation of 1973 Constitution, provincial and extremist nationalism had weakened in Pakistan to a great extent. But the country had to face the new epidemic of sectarianism, which though had shown signs of decline during the last one and a half year. But such forces could raise their head quickly. As such we should always be cautious, grasp new opportunities and keep our eyes fixed on the dangers ahead and give highest priority to our security considerations.

He said in order to preserve our freedom, it is necessary that we pay more attention to running of our democratic institutions. If constitutional institutions are weakened it will harm every one and it is ultimately the people who are affected.

The President called upon all political leaders and others associated with different professions including lawyers, businessmen, journalists, doctors, to come forward and promote literacy in Pakistan, otherwise the country

would be lagging far behind others. There was need to attain hundred per cent literacy and ushering in educational revolution to make education universal. He said it was with this objective that he had been visiting two schools a month and likewise the Prime Minister was also undertaking visits to schools and instructions had gone to governors and chief ministers to do likewise.

Answering a question about the opposition's charge that President House had become an ordinance factory Mr. Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari said the whole debate about the promulgation of ordinances is very misplaced and it was unfortunate that they (Opposition) are calling the President House an ordinance factory. The President's role is very little as far as ordinances are concerned. The President has to act on the advice of the Cabinet and the Prime Minister on whose advice the ordinances are approved. He said the president can only once return the ordinance to the government. If the government sends it for the second time, the President has no other recourse but to sign it, he added. He said, the National Assembly does not devote sufficient time for legislation with the result that the government has to have greater reliance on ordinances. The government has complained time and again that the Opposition does not allow any meaningful progress on legislation to take place in the National Assembly. Much of the time is taken away by the points of orders and other motions thereby preventing the passage of the legislation. He thought the government could still do better by concentrating on legislation despite these difficulties by the Opposition.

The President, however, pointed out that ordinances or legislation by ordinances is part of our constitutional framework, but this should be done sparingly.

He suggested that committees of the Parliament should be given due importance so that legislation becomes more meaningful.

He said more legislation should be done in the parliament and there should be lesser reliance on ordinances. "I do not like it myself and I have brought this to the notice of the government, he added.

The President said he had resigned from the civil service as he thought he could serve the people better in public life. I joined the People's Party and was given the office of the Secretary General of my district, within a short period I became Finance Secretary of the Punjab PPP. In 1975 I was elected to the Senate and in 1977 to the National assembly. I did not take part in the party-less elections held under Zia-ul-Haq regime.

He said his support base is not confined to his tribe alone. I have a fairly large circle of friends and supporters who are not only in PPP but also in other political parties, including the Muslim League. I keep contact with not only the people of my constituency, but also with people in other provinces which I frequently visit. He is in touch with those who were struggling with us jointly for the restoration of democracy and the constitution. By the Grace of God, we triumphed. "It was a life-long struggle and a very useful one. I think I took the right decision by leaving the civil service and come in public life."

Giving account of his public engagements, the President said he visits his home on weekends to keep contact with the people of his constituency as he thinks one should not lose contact with his roots. He said in his early life he used to travel extensively within his tribal areas, even by foot marching up to 15 miles in the mountains where there were no roads and meeting everyone in every hamlet. "It enabled me to have a clearer deep insight into the problems of our people, especially the most backward and poorest section of our society." "We do not have much land tenants. Almost all the lands are farmed by us directly. This was really a very useful experience," he added.

Asked whether he would like his children to be associated with politics, the President remarked "politics is a noble profession" and he was happy that his two sons are already in politics. They will contest the elections whenever the elections are held. They are lucky that they have a good constituency.

The President was asked to comment on his future aspirations as he was still very young at 56 years of age. It evoked a laughter when the President remarked, "I consider myself to be in 20s and 30s".

The President said he had been entrusted with very onerous responsibility as president of Pakistan. He prayed to Almighty God to give him strength, power and wisdom and necessary means to fulfill his obligations. "I shall be striving to do that if God gives me life. After my tenure as President is over I shall decide whether I should sit down retired early or keep on struggling. It will depend on the situation then and the circumstances and I do not wish to project my thinking into that period."

Asked about his saddest and happiest moments of life, the President said "joy and sorrow" are part of one's life. He had not looked at his life from this point of view. One has to bow to the dictates of Almighty Allah. One is actually on continuous test both in times of happiness and grief and has to bear with whatever the situation is. "You are on test with Almighty Allah whether you

are in power or out of power." He said besides doing his religious duties, performing Haqooqul Ibad [duties towards the people] is also an article of faith with him. He said one must perform his duties to the best of his capability and leave the result to Almighty Allah, who is the best judge.

Mentioning the growing gap between the rich and the poor, the President said he was in favor of introduction of agricultural income tax as well as taxing the salaries of President and the Prime minister in order to generate resources to eradicate poverty. He exhorted the nation to practice austerity and avoid extravagance. There should be no display of ostentation and dowry at the marriages. The dishes should be kept to the minimum, and possibly confined to one dish on such occasions. He said he had set a personal example in doing so at the marriage of his son recently.

Pakistan: Spokesman Comments on Wisner's Remarks on Kashmir

BK0608140796 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has reiterated its principled stand on Kashmir that no political process could be a substitute for a free and impartial plebiscite as envisaged in UN Security Council resolutions. Talking to APP in Islamabad today, a Foreign Office spokesman said the pledge of the international community in terms of UN resolutions on which the recognized position of Pakistan is based is very explicit on this point.

He categorically said Pakistan does not share the remarks of the American ambassador in New Delhi, Mr. Frank Wisner, in favor of mock polls and Indian offer of so-called autonomy for held-Kashmir. He said Islamabad does not believe any credible political process could emerge from the fraudulent and forcible elections in the disputed territory through coercion and intimidation.

When asked to comment on Mr. Wisner's remarks about acceptance of reality as it exists, the spokesman said it is not clear as to what appears to him as reality. The reality is the people of Kashmir have risen in revolt against India's illegal occupation of their land and are demanding their inalienable right to self-determination as pledged to them by the international community through the relevant UN resolutions.

Pakistan: PTV Cites Kashmiri Leader on Talks With Hank Brown

BK0608140696 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The All Parties Hurriyat Conference leadership has said human rights violations in occupied Kashmir have increased manifold after induction of the new government in New Delhi. In a meeting with American Senator Hank Brown in Srinagar, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leadership categorically rejected the polls ploy under the Indian Constitution. Besides the conference chairman, Mir Waiz Omar Farooq, other seniors leaders, Syed Ali Gilani, Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone and Professor Abdul Ghani Bhutt, also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone, an executive member of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, told our special correspondent Ghulam Nabi Khayal in an interview they had briefed Senator Hank Brown about the latest situation in occupied Kashmir. They said the situation would further deteriorate if the election drama was staged at gun point as elections are not a substitute and offer no solution to the Kashmir issue.

Pakistan: Foreign Minister Holds Talks With Visiting Turkmen Minister

BK0608114196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Turkmenistan has expressed concern over the gross violations of human rights by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir and stressed the need for resolving the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolution. The concern was expressed by the deputy prime minister of Turkmenistan, Mr. Boris Shikmuradov, during a meeting with the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in Lahore this afternoon. Overall situation in the region, as well as, bilateral relations between the two countries were reviewed in detail during the meeting.

The Turkmenistan deputy prime minister expressed the view that all regional issues should be solved peacefully through negotiations, particularly the burning issue of Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan. About bilateral relations, Mr. Boris Shikmuradov stressed the need for enhancing cooperation between his country and Pakistan, particularly in the field of oil and gas. He said Turkmenistan is actively planning to export oil and gas to Pakistan involving an investment of over \$6 billion.

Pakistan: Bhutto—Opposition Call for Midterm Polls 'Unjustified'

BK0508070296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has described the opposition demand for midterm elections as unjustified and categorically stated that elections will be held in 1998 as scheduled. Talking to newsmen at a dinner hosted in her honor by Balochistan Chief Minister Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi in Quetta last night, the prime minister, however, announced that local body elections will be held this year. She asked the opposition to abandon its demand for midterm elections and to cooperate with the government in eliminating corruption. She said the opposition should not talk about destabilizing the government which has been voted into power by the people.

Answering a question, the prime minister said the government and the opposition maintain identical stand on several issues, including Kashmir, the nuclear program, the abrogation of the Constitution's Eighth Amendment, and the restoration of women's seats in the assemblies. However, both parties cannot achieve these objectives without cooperating with each other in the larger national interest. Addressing the Pishin public rally, Bhutto said she had offered to hold negotiations with opposition parties and it is heartening that they have not rejected that offer. The prime minister announced a package of 750 million rupees for necessary development work in Quetta city. The fund will be used to improve basic facilities in the city. An official spokesman told APP in Quetta last night that under this package, projects like the construction and repair of roads, improvement of water, electricity and gas pipelines, and the establishment of a new digital telephone exchange in the city will be undertaken.

Pakistan: Security Officials Blame Indian Spies for Bombings

BK0708071896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Aug 96

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It will be readily granted by any fair-minded person that terrorism has become a fact of life in many parts of the world, if not all over the world. That is, of course, an extremely unfortunate aspect of life in cities in many countries. Pakistan's experience in this respect is not free from terrorism. There are periods of relative calm as there are spells which give rise to much unease because of increased frequency of terrorist activity. The latest example of terrorist attack was the outrage in the concourse hall of

the international airport at Lahore. There is hardly any hour when the parking lots of Pakistan's airports are not full of automobiles of all descriptions. Air travel has acquired an astonishing popularity and that makes airports a target for the terrorists as has become so strikingly evident from the terrible incident at Lahore airport.

There were terrorist strikes before the Lahore case and there have been one or two notable acts of terrorism elsewhere, though nowhere near the severity of the Lahore airport blast. Every responsible government would take notice of such incidents with the utmost seriousness. The Government of Pakistan and provincial governments in the country remain on what is perpetual red alert against the misdeeds of terrorists. As the world knows, tracking down terrorists has become an exceptionally specialized exercise for law enforcing forces and security services all over the world. There is hardly a country which has not been taken by surprise by organized terrorists. As a matter of fact, terror is now a highly specialized and sophisticated activity. This is very largely thanks to the technology that is now available to the modern-day practitioners of the diabolical act of terror. The most dastardly and demonic aspect of terror is that it makes innocent people its target.

It may be argued that some, though most not certainly, all acts of terrorism have a political motivation. In the first place, such terrorism is not on the rise. If anything, it is on the decline. What does appear to be on the rise is terrorism for the sake of nothing better than to spread terror, scare, disrupt normal life and expose security of stable states to dangers of destabilization. This terror for the sake of spreading destabilization is posing grave dangers to international peace, tranquillity, and stability.

There is growing body of evidence which points to the possible conclusion that Pakistan's current vulnerability to terrorist attacks is designed to spread scare in civil population and bring the security of the state under threat. This dimension inevitably gives the recent terroristic onslaughts in Pakistan the smell of conspiracy. No person with any sense of responsibility will even remotely entertain the idea of leveling accusations of serious terrorist intent without their being sufficient plausible basis for such suspicion.

During the recent weeks, security agencies in Pakistan are engaged in tracking down the elements who may be behind terrorist attacks which bear a suggestive similarity in the type of attacks — the class of explosives, the timing of blasts, in the choice of places for such explosions, and the power of the explosives employed. The conclusion becomes irresistible that there is a foreign

hand and that hand is motivated by a recognizable foreign inspiration and motive. All this material evidence leaves very little room for speculation or conjecture.

The security experts in Pakistan name the Research and Analysis Wing, the dreaded RAW agency of India. Much as one may regret such designs on the part of a neighbor and its instruments, the conclusion allows no escape. [sentence as heard]

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: President Criticizes Press for Fabricating Reports

BK0508052296 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
5 Aug 96

[Report by Pramod de Silva — Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga warned on Sunday [4 August] that newspapers which persist in publishing irresponsible and false material detrimental to the war effort and to the security forces will have to be closed down.

There is "growing resentment" in the security forces about the publication of material which are inimical to their interests in certain newspapers and they want the government to take appropriate action immediately, President Kumaratunga told a public rally in Nittambuwa, soon after opening a new ward complex at the Wathupitiwala hospital.

"We cannot let a few journalists and press barons denigrate the war effort. We cannot let them hinder the military's successful forward march with their malicious, false and damaging statements," she asserted, alleging that their course of action is motivated by greed for increased circulation, ulterior and insular political goals and by shady business interests.

"Their sons will never go to the war front — it is the son of the innocent rural villager who sacrifices his life in the war. We just cannot let them publish utter lies on the security forces and the war".

She told the gathering that censorship on military news — "though a very mild one" — was imposed after some private TV stations and newspapers failed to discontinue the practice of fabricating stories on the war despite numerous appeals by the government.

They have been acting in an highly irresponsible manner with regard to the war coverage and the government retains the option of going to courts against such media institutions for jeopardising national security interests and violating the censorship, she added.

The President disclosed that the government intended to publish alternative newspapers to counter "the spate

of false headlines on newspapers like the Island and Divaina".

"Either we close them down, or using the same freedom that they enjoy thanks to our government, give fitting replies to their propaganda. What these newspapers enjoy is not press freedom but freedom of the wild ass," she commented.

Noting that the opposition leader has made a statement criticising the censorship, she referred to an article [titled Who is the Opposition Fighting] in the Daily News (of August 20) by Haris Hulugalle, a shareholder of the Sunday Leader, in which he reminded the opposition leader about the total blackout on military news adopted by some countries.

She cited two examples of irresponsible reporting on the war situation by the Divaina and Island in the past. On one occasion, they had reported about "the lack of food" for soldiers in some Northern army camps. What really occurred was only a shortage of vegetables transported by air following the loss of two Avro aircraft and all other food items were available in plenty.

On another instance, the two newspapers had speculated that the main purpose of her State Visit to India was to discuss the extradition of Prabhakaran.

"It was absolutely incorrect — the issue was nowhere in the agenda. But what is more significant about this episode is the fact that a ceasefire and peace talks were on at that time. Then, their report was an open invitation to Prabhakaran to kill me as the extradition issue is said to be one of the things he abhors," said the president.

Today's conduct of newspapers and electronic media contrasts sharply with their record during the previous regime, she said. "They were dead silent on every major issue as newsmen who dared to speak died under most mysterious circumstances. Now that we have restored media freedom, some newspapers revel in vilifying me at every turn".

Health Minister A.H.M.Fowzie also spoke.

Sri Lanka: President's Security Officer Shot by Unknown Gunmen

BK0508070096 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English
5 Aug 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jayanath Dharmasena of the Presidential Security Division was admitted to the Anuradhapura Hospital with gunshot injuries on Sunday [4 August] evening. Later he was transferred to the National Hospital, Colombo.

According to reports he had been shot at by an unidentified gunman at a pooja close to the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi tree. Reports said the President was due to attend this religious ceremony but since she was attending a Sri Lanka Freedom Party organisers' meeting in Kalawewa at the time and as it was late, she had informed Speaker K.B.Ratnayake to attend.

Anuradhapura district MP P.B.Dissanayake and his secretary were arranging flowers for the pooja near the Bodhi when the shooting took place. Dharmasena had been standing close by.

Police had immediately cordoned off the area and searched all those in the vicinity. Later, they were asked to vacate the area. No arrests have been made. Anuradhapura police are investigating.

Sri Lanka: Radio Reports 'Ferocious Battles' in Northern Province

BK0608120296 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 6 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Sathjaya and Tiger terrorists kept up ferocious battles in the Northern Province. Troops continue to advance further southwards under enemy resistance. Terrorists had offered a heavy resistance using mortars, machine guns, RPGs [Rocket-Propelled Grenades], and small arms. The security forces had to clear many hastily-laid mine fields and booby traps. Therefore, they have to move cautiously.

The Operational Headquarters says that the Sri Lankan Air Force continue to engage terrorist positions in-depth causing severe damages to identified terrorist locations. However, terrorist radio transmissions had so far not divulged casualties suffered due to those effective air strikes. The artillery, too, continue to engage terrorist positions ahead of the advancing troops. Two officers and 15 soldiers died in action and three soldiers sustained injuries in the fighting yesterday. Troops of Operation Sathjaya resumed their forward march in the early hours of today. The infantry and columns of armor are supported by armor and air.

Ferocious battles raged in the Northern Province yesterday as troops of Operation Sathjaya launched phase two of their offensive against Tiger terrorists. Infantry backed by tanks and ground attack aircraft smashed bunkers of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ee-

lam] south of Paranthan. They also advanced 3 km. The Operational Headquarters says that the ground troops have confirmed 203 terrorists were killed and estimated that over 100 were injured. Air Force planes were bombing behind rebel lines and inflicting heavy losses on the Tigers. One officer and 14 soldiers died in action and 32 were wounded. The Defense Ministry said that the advance of the troops resumed last morning and the latest reports indicate that the terrorists are offering resistance. Military officials said that the Navy too had joined to support the offensive by sealing off possible escape routes of the Tigers in the area. The Navy continue to patrol the Jaffna lagoon to prevent terrorist boat movements. The operation continues.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Reports on Operation Sathjaya Fighting

BK0708040096 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW
in English 5 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Translated Text] The second day of the stage 2 military operations is witnessing heavy army losses. To cover the losses the Sri Lankan Air Force is conducting a ceaseless attack on civilians. What has been predicted has come to pass in the Kilinochchi town. There are no more worthwhile buildings left. Artillery shells and aerial bombs have reduced all concrete structures to heaps of rubble. Yesterday Sri Lankan ground forces attempted a breakthrough by a different route but were abruptly halted by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] counter attack — apparently the LTTE fighters were prepared for any eventuality. One battle tank was completely destroyed bringing the total tally of tanks lost to six. There is no count of the dead soldiers available.

Meanwhile, the Air Force is doing the dirty work of the armed forces bombing concentrations of displaced persons in Murugandy where hundreds of these people were sheltering. A Puccara bomber bombed a shady tree killing two sisters — Pathmarani and Vijayarani 17 and 14 respectively daughters of one Thuraisingham of far-away Pandatharriyu in Valigamam Jaffna peninsula. Murugandy is now free of refugees since this bombing at the evening on the 5th of August. This is not an isolated instance — it is part of the strategy of making the common man pay for army losses.

Kilinochchi town continues to be beyond the reach of the armed forces. The LTTE are in control despite the bombing and shelling.

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